

# The Bullet

Volume 76, No. 0

Mary Washington College's student newspaper since 1922.

August 22, 2002

FEATURES

SECTION

**A Ghost reportedly haunts Hugh Mercer Hall. Are the stories true, or are they just stories?**

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**Senior Connor Smith leads Eagle men's tennis team, earns All-American status for Division III.**

See page 8.



## inside

### A FRUITY WORLD:

Student shares his dream about a campus where everyone can share fruit.  
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### THE SCENE SCENE:

What have the various departments got planned this year?  
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### THEY'VE ARRIVED:

Pictures of freshman move-in day.

## weather



### TODAY:

Partly cloudy with a high of 97 and a low of 72.

### FRIDAY:

Isolated thunderstorms with a high of 92 and a low of 71.

### SATURDAY:

Scattered thunderstorms with a high of 90 and a low of 70.

### SUNDAY:

Isolated thunderstorms with a high of 88 and a low of 62.

## verbatim

**"It doesn't reflect 99.9 percent of our students... It's the very opposite of what our student body represents."**

Margaret Mock



Erika Sifrit, a 2000 MWC graduate, is escorted by police.

AP/Wide World Photos

## Alumna Indicted For Homicide

### Trials Set For 2000 Graduate And Mate Accused Of Slaying Vacationing Couple

By OSASU AIRINABERE  
Associate Editor

Erika Sifrit, a Mary Washington College 2000 graduate, and her husband Benjamin Sifrit have been accused of two murders in Ocean City, Md.

Her trial date has been set for Dec. 2, while her husband's trial has been set for a week later. Both are pleading not guilty.

According to a June 14 press release from the office of Worcester State's Attorney, Joel Todd, a Worcester County, Md. grand jury indicted the Sifrits, both 24, on 18 charges each, including two counts of first-degree

murder. They would each face a maximum of two life sentences as well as 173 years and six months in prison if convicted of all 18 charges. The Sifrits will not face the death penalty at the request of the families of the victims.

The 18 charges include second-degree burglary, fourth degree burglary, felony theft, malicious destruction of property, possession of burglary tools, three counts of possession of a dangerous and deadly weapon, possession of a handgun without a permit, possession of a handgun in commission of a felony, two counts of first

▼ see **SIFRIT**, page 2

## MWC Reacts To Negative Publicity

By PHILLIP GRIFFITH  
News Editor

College officials say they understand all the negative media attention the Erika Sifrit case is bringing to the college, but they say they will be relieved when the case is no longer in the public eye.

Erika Sifrit, who was an honors graduate of the college in 2000, has been indicted in the grisly slayings of a vacationing couple at Ocean City, Md. and 16 other crimes. If convicted, she could receive life in prison.

"The situation is unfortunate and it's sad," said Margaret Mock, director of News and Information Services.

The case and the accused slayer's ties to

the college have been reported in The Washington Post, the Free Lance-Star, The Baltimore Sun, the Richmond Times Dispatch and the Associated Press, as well as various other television and radio media outlets.

College officials said that numerous news media outlets contacted the school, but because of a federal law protecting student privacy, they could only give out very basic information, such as when she graduated and what sports she played.

"Police say local grad is killer," reads one Free Lance-Star headline. Other papers simply identify her as a Mary Washington College graduate. The Washington Post reported that she was an "Ideal Kid."

▼ see **MEDIA**, page 2

## BOV Finalizes Rate Of Tuition Hike

By ALLISON GAZZOLI  
Staff Writer

In state students at Mary Washington College will be faced with an increase of \$220 for residential, full time tuition starting this fall due to recent budget cuts.

For residential, out-of-state students the increase will be 4.7 percent, or an additional \$738 each semester. In-state commuter students will see an increase of \$594, and out-of-state commuting students will see a \$1,112 increase.

"We did not feel it would be appropriate to pass along all of the state-mandated budget reductions to students and their parents," said former BOV member Vince DiBenedetto in a statement on the

college's website "We can only hope that these cuts will be short-lived, and that soon we can return to level funding for our institutions of higher learning in the state."

Other Virginia institutions have also raised their tuition in response to these statewide cuts. George Mason University's tuition went up by 16 percent, costing students about \$600 more per year, while Virginia Tech's went up nine percent.

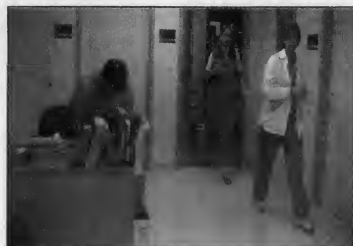
Many students statewide have expressed their displeasure over the recent budget cuts and the tuition increases. "This sucks. A college education is one of our country's most prized possessions and it is becoming harder and harder to obtain because

of budget cuts," said Dan Cullen, a sophomore at GMU.

While some students are weathering the changes, others are looking for alternative solutions to the increasing college costs.

Ricky Melbourne, a graduating senior at Gar-Field High School in Woodbridge said, "I was having a hard time choosing between Virginia Tech and West Point, but with the cost of tuition being raised, I am accepting my appointment at West Point. Six years of Army service as an officer after college graduation and I am free and clear. No loans to repay and a guaranteed job after graduation. You can't beat that."

▼ see **TUITION**, page 11



Juliette Gomez/Bullet

From left, Pam McNab, Wendy Price, and Judy Brushwood in Combs Hall.

## Combs Hall Ready To Go

By PETER YU  
Staff Writer

This fall, faculty and staff from the Historic Preservation, Modern Foreign Languages, and English, Linguistics and Speech departments will teach under one roof in Combs Hall, which opens its doors to students after renovations.

Additionally, other departments and offices on campus including Instructional Technology, Business Administration, Psychology, and alumni Relations and Giving will be relocating to utilize the vacant spaces.

Matthew Duerkensen, Capital Outlay Director, said that the English, Linguistics and Speech department moved to the third floor of Combs Hall, the Language Department to the second floor, and the Historic Preservation department to the first floor and basement. The three departments moved in July 2002.

Duerkensen said construction on Combs began in March 2001.

Historic Preservation Professor Wendy Price said that she is excited and enthusiastic about this transition.

The Historic Preservation Department, which was moved from the Trinkle Hall basement, will have a new conservation museum and archaeology lab in Combs Hall.

Price said that major department labs, such as the archaeology lab and computer labs, were located in

separate buildings. She said that she is excited to see the department labs joined with classrooms in Combs Hall.

In addition, she said that new computer modules and full Internet access to all students in Combs Hall will provide big improvement for new classrooms.

The space in Trinkle vacated by Historic Preservation will be occupied by Instructional Technology. Judy Brushwood, administrative assistant for Instructional Technology and Historic Preservation, said that the director of Media Center and Help Desk, currently located in the basement of Chandler Hall, will relocate to the basement of Trinkle. The Technology Training Center will also move from the first floor of Trinkle to the basement.

Brushwood said that computer lab aids and the Help Desk will be located next to each other and will continue to help students with computer repairs.

The English, Linguistics, and Speech Department, which moved from Chandler Hall and Fairfax House, will unite under Combs Hall, said Bill Kemp, professor of English. According to Kemp, the move was prompted because the department is the largest on campus and due to increased faculty enrollment.

Carol Parkinson, the department's secretary, said that the English department had over 300 majors.  
▼ see **COMBS**, page 11

## College Employee Elected Chair Of Virginia Foundation For Women

By JULIE STAVITSKI  
Hour-In-Chief

Meta Brynner, vice president for Graduate and Professional Studies at Mary Washington College and dean of Faculty at the James Monroe Center, was elected the chair of the Virginia Foundation for Women this past July.

"It's exciting and overwhelming," said Brynner. The Virginia Foundation for Women, which has over 500 members, was formed in 1996 by former Attorney General Mary Sue Terry. After running for governor of Virginia and losing the election, Terry formed the group as a way to serve the women of Virginia. The organization officially got off the ground in 1997 after their first leadership summit was held in the Great Hall on Mary Washington College's Campus. Individuals interested in the foundation attended as well as various organizations around the state who offer services to women.

"There was no foundation for women in any other states," said Brynner. "At one of our meetings Mary Sue said, 'In Virginia, there's a foundation for animals, and foundations for everything else,



Meta

Julie Stavitski/Bullet

but none for women.' We wanted to get as much information as we could out to women and girls."

This is showcased in the foundation's mission statement: to promote the welfare of women and girls.

▼ see **WOMEN**, page 12

# JUMBO Police Beat

By PHILLIP GRIFFITH  
News Editor



April 17—An incident of credit card theft occurred in the south parking lot of Sunken Rd. John MacDonald reported the loss of an L.L. Bean Visa card and a Wal-Mart prepaid phone card taken from his jeep, which was left unlocked. The card was used at Kmart, Wal-Mart and Giant. The suspect that stole the card was arrested elsewhere. MacDonald was reimbursed by Visa.

April 18—An incident of grand larceny occurred at the William Street parking lot. A student's Red Mitsubishi's driver's side window was broken out, and a Sony CD player, amplifier, wiring harness, and CD case were taken. The total amount of merchandise taken was estimated at \$2,100, and the damage to the window was estimated at \$400. The case is under investigation.

April 19—An incident of grand larceny occurred in the North Sunken Rd. parking lot between 3 p.m. and 7:47 p.m. 120 mixed CDs and a floor mat were taken from a white Honda after the front passenger seat window was broken out. The total damage and costs is estimated at \$1830. The case is under investigation.

April 26—Between April 12 and April 26, an incident of petty larceny occurred at Mercer Hall. A student reported that his rear bicycle tire and cog assembly were taken from his G.T. Aquilla bicycle. The wheel is valued at \$50. The case is under investigation.

April 28—An incident of vandalism occurred between midnight and 9 a.m. in Alvey Hall. Someone wrote racial slurs in permanent marker on a white message board valued at \$10. Police collected the board as evidence, and several students were questioned. The case is under investigation.

April 27-28—Twelve vehicles were vandalized at both Sunken Rd. parking lots, the William Street lot, the Hanover lot and the Battleground. Glass was busted out of a majority of the vehicles, and CDs generally were stolen. Police estimated the damage and cost of stolen property at about \$5,200. The case is under investigation.

April 30—An incident of trespassing occurred near Willard Hall. According to police, Donny Keith Morris, 19, of Wrightsville Ga. was preaching hell and damnation. Police received a number of complaints from women saying that he called them "bitches and fornicators," as well as accused them of wrongdoing and living lives of sin. Police have barred him from campus. Morris has filed a complaint with the President's office claiming that he was prevented from exercising his first amendment rights.

May 2—An administrative alcohol confiscation occurred in Russell Hall. An RA confiscated 22 Coors beers, five cans of Miller, one can of Rick's, five Heinekens, and one disposable box of Almaden Wine from an underage. Police photographed and poured out the alcohol. The case was referred to the administration.

May 2—An incident of trespassing occurred near Virginia Hall. According to police, they received a call that a man was trying to enter the hall through a basement window at 12:15 a.m. Police found Brandon Holmberg, 20, of Fredericksburg outside the hall. Holmberg said that he was supposed to meet a girl named Jen at midnight and he was not trying to enter the building. Holmberg was barred from campus.

May 3—An incident of trespassing occurred at Double Drive at 4:45 a.m. Police arrested Brandon Holmberg, 20, of Fredericksburg, who had been barred from campus the day before. Holmberg said that he was dropping off his girlfriend and he told her he wasn't allowed on campus, but she insisted he take her back to her dorm. He was arrested and released on a summons. At court on June 6, he pled guilty and was fined \$25 plus court costs.

May 8—An incident of trespassing occurred near Trinkle Hall. According to police, Russell Lee Shetley, 21, of Woodbridge was selling artwork in Trinkle Hall. Officers found him outside G.W. Hall, selling artwork for a Lorton company. He was given a trespassing warning, photographed, escorted to his vehicle and barred from campus.

May 16—Three underage male students were walking on College Ave. near chandler, attempting to conceal a silver can each, police said. An officer stopped the men and noticed the smell of alcohol. Three Natural Light beer cans were found 25 feet from where the students were stopped. The case was referred to the administration.

May 23—Damage was committed to state property near Klein Theatre sometime between April 23 and May 23. According to police, unknown persons entered the room behind the Theatre, jumped from the wall to a G.E. industrial air conditioner and used an unknown tool to write obscene words and pictures on the aluminum fins of the air conditioner. Beer bottles were also found broken on the concrete floor. The total damage is estimated at \$200. The case is under investigation.

May 23—Vandalism to state property occurred near Broomfield. Five windupwings were found broken in a barn near the President's House. Rocks were found inside the building. Police suspect that they were thrown from the fence from Park Service property. The case is under investigation.

May 30—An incident of trespassing occurred in Monroe Hall. Police said they found former student Robert William Curran, 22, of Fredericksburg at 4:13 a.m.

Curran said he went for a walk and stopped to check his email in the Monroe Hall computer lab. He was arrested, searched and found to be in possession of no weapons, but he was found with a pair of women's purple underwear. On July 7, he pled guilty of trespassing and paid a \$50 fine, plus court costs.

June 1—At 11:04 p.m., police received a call from alumni saying that a man was sleeping in a car in the Chandler parking lot and wearing no clothes. When police investigated, they found Nelson Lee Atkinson, 41, of Woodford, asleep in his car wearing only shorts, with beer cans and the rest of the clothes nearby. Atkinson was charged with being drunk in public. He was arrested and barred from campus, and his car was towed. Atkinson prepaid his court costs and fine.

June 2—In Alvey Hall, a 22-year-old admitted purchasing alcohol for an underage roommate who became ill because of a combination alcohol and medication. The ill student was taken to the hospital. Both students were referred to the administration.

June 6—An incident of petty larceny occurred near Combs. Fifty feet of brass pipe valued at \$150 was taken from the construction site. The case is under investigation.

June 12—An incident of grand larceny occurred in Combs Hall. A concrete nail gun and accessories valued at \$600 was stolen from the basement, which was unsecured. The case is under investigation.

June 13—An incident of grand larceny occurred near Randolph Hall. A red Trek 6000 mountain bike valued at \$550 was taken. The case is under investigation.

June 13—An incident of grand larceny occurred in Monroe Hall sometime between mid-April and June 11. A Dell Motim with Hewlett Packard Deskjet Printer and Keyboard were missing from room 304K. The property is valued at \$1773.43. The case is under investigation.

June 15—An RA in Alvey Hall confiscated two bottles of Samuel Adams beer from the third floor public refrigerator. The case was referred to the administration.

June 19—An incident of petty larceny and trespassing occurred along campus walk at 8:45 p.m. Police stopped Tony Colbert, 34, of Fredericksburg with a Fisher bike valued at \$100. Colbert said he saw the bike outside a building and took it because it looked better than his. He was arrested and barred from campus. Colbert missed his court date, and a capias was issued for his arrest. Two other men Colbert was with, Michael Thomas, 44, of Stafford, and Dennis Washington, 44, of Fredericksburg, also were barred from campus.

June 20—An RA in Alvey Hall confiscated four cans of Coors Light in the refrigerator of the third floor public refrigerator. The case was referred to the administration.

June 20—An incident of petty larceny occurred in Alvey hall. Two 10 lb. fire extinguishers were reported missing from the first floor. They were valued at \$100 total.

June 26—An incident of petty larceny occurred at Trinkle Hall. A 10-speed Huffy Roadmaster bike valued at \$25 was stolen between 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. It was not secured. The case is under investigation.

June 28—Three male juveniles were acting suspicious around Marshall Hall. When an officer approached them, they turned and ran. One was apprehended, and according to police, he had been drinking beer. He was barred from campus, and his parents were notified.

June 29—An incident of trespassing occurred near Westmoreland Hall. A police officer noticed five individuals in the G.W. parking lot. When they saw the officer, they walked off. They were found in the Trinkle lab. Four of the individuals were escorted to their cars. One was a juvenile, and his parents were notified.

July 6—An officer spotted a man staggering along William Street. The man was stopped at Mary's Heights, and he had possession of alcohol and bloodshot eyes. Travis Swint, 22, of Fredericksburg was arrested for drunk in public. Swint prepaid his fines and court costs.

July 7—Seven fire extinguishers valued at \$350 were taken from Alvey Hall. None of them were found on college grounds. Officers found that four students were seen loading fire extinguishers in their truck. The students said they had leftover fireworks from July 4 and wanted to remain safe. The case was referred to the Honor Council.

July 8—An incident of trespassing occurred in Monroe restaurant. Eight people were in the fountain, which was on at the time. An officer observed eight people in front of the Monroe who were soaking wet. Some had squirt guns and were hiding behind trees. All the individuals were barred from campus.

July 8—An incident of grand larceny occurred near Alvey Hall. A tequid park bench valued at \$1032.54 was unbolted from the ground taken from in front of the hall. The last time anyone could remember seeing the bench was in the middle of June. The case is under investigation.

July 9—An incident of petty larceny occurred in Mason Hall. A 10 qt. Coleman ice chest valued at \$10 was taken from the soccer camp. The case is under investigation.

July 16—An incident of petty larceny occurred in Goolrick Hall. A \$20 broom rack was stolen out of a housekeeping closet. Police cannot determine a motive for the crime. The case is under investigation.

## Former Basketball Player Charged



—Erika Grace

In 1997, Erika Grace (right) was charged with the rape of Erik Sifrit, who married and changed her name to Sifrit. Now could face life in prison.

### ▲ SIFRIT, page 1

degree murder, two counts of sexual assault, two counts of rape of a minor, a charge of violence and two counts of kidnapping after the act of first degree murder.

State's Attorney Paul Dwyer said in a comment. According to Dwyer, Sifrit was an online newspaper, Todd's blog, stating that would prohibit a witness to the case from talking to the media in order to prevent pretrial publicity that could taint the jury pool.

He was quoted in DelmarvaNow saying "There has just been an insane amount of pretrial publicity making it increasingly difficult to be able to try the case in Worcester County. In my job I have to make sure that the defendants see a fair trial."

According to Jay Hancock, Ocean City Police Public Information Officer, the Sifrits were arrested in connection with the murder of Fairfax, Va. resident 31-year-old Martha Crutchley and 32-year-old Joshua Ford, who were vacationing in Ocean City Md. on Memorial Day weekend. The Sifrits were arrested May 31 when they were caught attempting to steal \$5,000 worth of merchandise from a Hooters restaurant.

Police reports state that Benjamin Sifrit was carrying a 9 mm handgun and a knife, while Erika Sifrit was armed with a 375 Magnum and a knife with a serrated blade. Blood and tissue were later found on the knife with the serrated blade. Erika Sifrit told police that her husband, who is a dishonorably discharged Navy SEAL, shot Crutchley and Ford in the bathroom of their room in the Rainbow Condominium housing complex and then cut up the bodies with the serrated knife that she was carrying. She said that he then put the bodies in large trash bags and disposed of them in a trash bin near Rehoboth, Del., where police later recovered the remains. Tests are still being done to identify the remains.

"The motive has not yet been established," Hancock said. "It is still under investigation."

According to Hancock, the Sifrits are also being investigated in connection to another murder in Blair County, Penn.

## Bad Press From Alumna Not Hurting College, Officials Say

### ▲ MEDIA, page 1

Ed Jones, Free Lance-Star editor, said that the local angle, as well as the unusual violent nature of the crimes, makes the story newsworthy.

"It's not the sort of thing that happens to people from our town," Jones said.

The Free Lance-Star reported Sifrit met her husband in Fredericksburg and also may have stolen goods from

a Spotsylvania Hooters restaurant, furthering the case to the Fredericksburg area.

Director of News and Information Services, Mock said the believability of the sensationalism of the crime and the reputation of the college also influence why the case is receiving so much press.

"It doesn't reflect 99 percent of our students," Mock said. "I think because our student body is so highly regarded in this community is why this is newsworthy."

"It's the very opposite of what our student body represents."

However, even though college officials understand why the Sifrit case is newsworthy, they still don't like the

attention.

"No institution ever wants to get their name in the news in a negative way," said Mock.

College officials also said they are not trying to find more positive stories about the college to offset the negative publicity.

"We're always looking for good stories about the college," Mock said.

Recently the Free Lance-Star ran a feature story about a 1941 alumna who some of the college's biggest supporters.

Despite the attention, Ron Singleton, senior vice president for Advancement and College Relations, said he doesn't think the case is giving Mary Washington College a bad name.

"Outside of Fredericksburg, the college's name really hasn't been a factor," Singleton said.

"Most people don't try to draw a line between one individual and the college."

Singleton added that it's interesting the college does tout the successes of its alumni, but not the failures.

Sifrit's trial is scheduled for Dec. 2. When asked if the Sifrit case is relieved when the trial is over, Singleton

replied, "Yes. I don't like to see the college's name in a negative context."

**"It's not the sort of thing that happens to people from our town."**

Ed Jones

# Viewpoints

your opinions

## Editorial

### Negative Media Attention

Erika Grace Sifrit, a college alumna, and her husband are accused of double murder of the most grisly fashion, and this whole situation is, as a college administrator put it, sad. Obviously, it's sad for everyone involved; the victims, their families and even for the suspected murderers, who, if sentenced, would spend the rest of their lives in prison, but deservedly so. It's also sad for the college, the community and for us at *The Bulletin*.

Mary Washington College remains relatively quiet in terms of media attention, as it should be. Small liberal arts colleges from Virginia really shouldn't be making national news, but the Erika Sifrit case has definitely thrown more attention our way. In fact, Sifrit might be our most famous alumna, possibly beating out the former head of the National Transportation and Safety Board who was an MWC grad.

No community wants the media attention the college has been given recently, but what can you do? Nothing, except wait for the storm to pass. Sifrit's case is newsworthy, there's no doubt about that.

So, anyway, what's our point? Essentially, we're just trying to justify covering the Sifrit case. *The Bulletin* has to. It's newsworthy, and we're a newspaper. But we don't have to like it, and we don't. No one should like having to cover a crime where people are shot, dismembered and thrown into the garbage. It's sick. It's disturbing. It's embarrassing. It'd be nice to come back from summer and have "Combs Hall Reopens" as the lead story, but the actions of one alumna out of thousands won't let us.

The Erika Grace Sifrit story will be with us for a while, and you'll probably see more coverage on it in *The Bulletin*. However, we, like you, are looking forward to the end of this storm.

### Notice Anything New?

In case you got a paper missing the entire front section, we would like to announce our change to color print on our front and back pages. Not only does *The Bulletin* give the Mary Washington College campus top quality news, but will now showcase it in a top quality package as well. We hope this change excites not only us, but you as well.

**the Bulletin**  
www.thebulletonline.com

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Adviser: Steve Watkins

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## SGA Pres. To Freshmen: Find Your Niche

**MEREDITH JOHNSTON**  
Guest Columnist

Good afternoon! Let me begin by saying that due to this ninety-degree weather, I will keep this brief. That said, welcome to your college years—a time of no parents, no curfews, and complete responsibility for your actions. When I sat down to write this speech, the memories of my first move-in day came flooding back to me. Let me paint you a quick picture of my experience three years ago. It was unbearably hot much like today. My parents and I thought that we would get here early to beat some of the heat. Right. After one trip up and down those three flights of stairs, my father was already cursing under his breath and muttering how he could not believe that he was paying out of state tuition for me to be stuck on the third floor of an unairconditioned dorm with two other girls. I tried not to walk to close to him, hoping that people would not associate him with me. To further add to my embarrassment, my mother had already mailed several floor plans drawn to scale to my two roommates, so I was convinced that they already thought that I was psychotic. All I could

do was try to muster a smile to my hall mates as I sweated like a pig, carrying endless boxes up to my room. So yes, I feel your pain.

Although this is an extremely exciting time for you as you begin to adjust to your new community, at this moment right before your parents depart and college finally becomes real for you, most of you are scared, or, at least nervous about finding your place among 3800 students. No matter what your interests may be—whether it is student activities, academics, sports, the arts, or any other avenue, there are numerous outlets for you to express yourself and to gain a sense of belonging in this community. The sooner you begin to explore your interests, and thus find others with common interests, the sooner you will come to view Mary Washington as not just your college, but your home.

I want to share with you how I found my niche here at Mary Washington, so you may formulate ideas on how to discover your role on campus. The first couple weeks of my freshman year, I felt like I was away at summer camp. It was as if I were in limbo. I knew that I did not belong at home, yet felt like an outsider on campus. Sure, I hung out with some of my hall mates, but I was not really close to anyone of them. I

would come back to my room from class at one, and just sit around watching television and "IM"ing my friends from high school until dinner with my hall mates. I just did not feel settled.

However, I quickly became sick of just sitting around. It just was not my nature. In high school I was always active, always busy. I realized that I was disappointed with myself. I was so excited to come here and make a new start, to define myself as the person that I had always wanted to be; yet I was just existing. It was at that point that I decided to make an effort to step out of my comfort zone and pursue my interests. I wandered into my hall mates' rooms and found myself hanging out there all the time. I went to Club Carnival and got information and meeting times for the organizations that I was interested in.

I attempted to drag some of my hall mates to the meetings, but much to my dismay I had to attend several alone. However, it turned out that I found many of my fellow classmates there looking as lost as I felt. Some of the organizations seemed to fit, while others were not what I had suspected. And that is how I found my niche at MWC. You

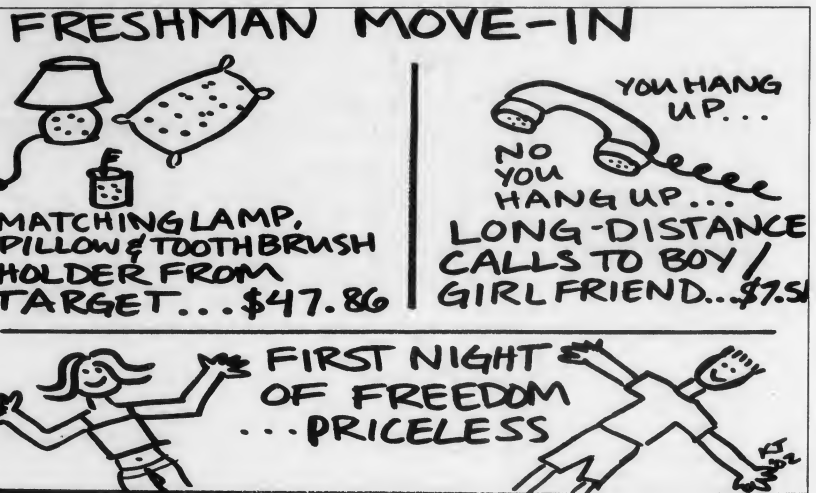
will embark on a similar voyage, and you too will call this community your home.

As someone who is very involved in campus activities, I highly recommend that you make an effort to hang out with your hall mates, to introduce yourself to the person next to you in class, to go to Club Carnival on Sept. 2, and to actually attend a meeting. You will find many of your classmates doing the same, and that upperclassmen will welcome your fresh ideas and enthusiasm. You need to ask yourself whether you are here to get a degree or get an education.

I am not saying that this journey will be an easy one, but it is a necessary one. I promise you that in several months you will look back and wonder why you were so apprehensive. Turn to your Orientation Leaders and RA's if you have questions or concerns along the way, and you can always approach me at any time. As student body president, I am here to represent you and to be a resource for you, so don't be a stranger.

In closing, welcome again and have a great time during this week of no classes. Thank you.

Meredith Johnston is a senior and SGA President. This column is a copy of her welcome speech to freshmen.



## Letters to the Editor

### Dreaming Of Fruit...

Dear Editor:

I have a dream that one day the residents of this campus will rise up and live out the true meaning of the MWC creed. We hold these truths to be self-evident that all fruit are created equal.

I have a dream that one day on the green slopes of Seabeck the fruit of South America and the fruits of Europe and Asia will be placed together at buffet lines of the Roseroom in Seabeck Hall.

I have a dream that one day, even the Mangoes of Brazil, a fruit sweltering under the heat of oppression, will be transformed into a staple fixture in the lunch lines of MWC.

I have a dream that the patrons of our three dining rooms and their future progeny will one day eat in a hall where no fruit will be judged by the color of its skin but by its nutritional content and the sweetness of its flavor.

I have a dream today. I have a dream that one day every fruit shall be exalted, and every flavor and every texture shall be made available, the rotten shall be exchanged with the fresh and the bruised replaced with the unbruised and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all fruit shall be eaten together.

This is our hope. This is the faith that I will go back to my dorm with. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope.

With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our Campus into a beautiful symphony of Fruitopian harmony.

With this faith we will be able to study together, to

pray together, to research together, to go to class together, to climb up for freedom together, knowing that we will be rejuvenated and revitalized by the sweetness of the fruit.

This will be the day when all of MWC's residents will be able to say with new meaning "The Power of Fruit is a curious thing, it makes a one resident weep, makes another one sing: Change your steak to a orange little root. More than a feeling, that's the power of fruit!"

And if MWC is to be a great college, this must become true. So let all fruit be eaten equally, from the hills of Goolrick. Let freedom ring from the halls of Marshall.

Let fruit be eaten from the flowery slopes of Russell. Let fruit be eaten from the luxurious lobby of Ball Hall.

Let fruit be eaten from the emerald fields of the Battleground. But not only that, let fruit be eaten from the mighty steps of GW Hall.

Let fruit be eaten from every dorm and hall at MWC. And when this happens, when we let all fruit be represented and eaten equally, when we let a diverse selection of fruit be eaten from every tenement and every hamlet of this Campus, we will be able to speed up that day when all of MWC's residents; freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors, be they from Ecuador to Pakistan, China to Malawi, will be able to join hands and eat all fruit together in the words of the old spiritual.

"Fruit at last, Fruit at last. Thank God Almighty, we have fruit at last."

Christopher L. Witbracht  
Junior

### Bullet Letter and Editorial Policy

*The Bulletin* is always eager to receive letters to the editor and guest columns, and every effort is made to print them. If there are numerous letters on one subject, a sampling of the best letters will be selected.

Letters should be typed, double-spaced, and submitted the Monday before publication. All letters and columns are subject to editing for length and clarity. Letters should be no longer than 300 words, and columns should not exceed 700 words. *The Bulletin* reserves the right to withhold libelous material.

*The Bulletin* does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, disability, national origin, political affiliation, marital status, sex, age or sexual orientation.

*The Bulletin* will not publish anonymous letters or columns. All letters must be signed, and a phone number and address must be included to facilitate verification of authorship of the letter. Letters and columns can be mailed to *The Bulletin* at 1701 College Avenue, Fredericksburg, VA, 22401-4666, delivered to our office in Seabeck Hall or sent to our email address at [bullet@mw.edu](mailto:bullet@mw.edu).

Opinions expressed in columns or letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Bulletin* staff. The staff editorial represents the opinions of *The Bulletin* editorial board and not necessarily those of the college, student body or entire *Bullet* staff.

# JUMBO Police Beat

By PHILLIP GRIFFITH  
News Editor



April 17—An incident of credit card theft occurred in the south parking lot of Sunken Rd. John MacDonald reported the loss of an L.J. Bean Visa card and a Wal-Mart prepaid phone card taken from his jeep, which was left unlocked. The card was used at Knott, Wal-Mart and Giant. The suspect that stole the card was arrested elsewhere. MacDonald was reimbursed by Visa.

April 18—An incident of grand larceny occurred at the William Street parking lot. A student's Red Mitsubishi's driver's side window was broken out, and a Sony CD player, amplifier, wiring harness, and CD case were taken. The total amount of merchandise taken was estimated at \$2,100, and the damage to the window was estimated at \$400. The case is under investigation.

April 19—An incident of grand larceny occurred in the north Sunken Rd. parking lot between 3 p.m. and 7:47 p.m. 120 mixed CDs and a floor mat were taken from a white Honda after the front passenger seat window was broken out. The total damage and costs is estimated at \$1830. The case is under investigation.

April 26—Between April 12 and April 26, an incident of petty larceny occurred at Mercer Hall. A student reported that his rear bicycle tire and cog assembly were taken from his G.T. Aquila bicycle. The wheel is valued at \$80. The case is under investigation.

April 28—An incident of vandalism occurred between midnight and 9 a.m. in Alvey Hall. Someone wrote racial slurs in permanent marker on a white message board valued at \$10. Police collected the board as evidence, and several students were questioned. The case is under investigation.

April 27-28—Twelve vehicles were vandalized at both Sunken Rd. parking lots, the William Street lot, the Hanover lot and the Battleground. Glass was busted out of a majority of the vehicles, and CDs generally were stolen. Police estimated the damage and cost of stolen property at about \$5,200. The case is under investigation.

April 30—An incident of trespassing occurred near Willard Hall. According to police, Denny Keith Morris, 19, of Wrightsville Ga. was preaching hell and damnation. Police received a number of complaints from women saying that he called them "bitches and fornicators," as well as accused them of wrongdoing and living lives of sin. Police have barred him from campus. Morris has filed a complaint with the President's office claiming that he was prevented from exercising his first amendment rights.

May 2—An administrative alcohol confiscation occurred in Russell Hall. An RA confiscated 22 Coors beers, five cans of Miller, one can of Rick's, five Heinekens, and one disposable box of Almaden Wine from an underage. Police photographed and poured out the alcohol. The case was referred to the administration.

May 2—An incident of trespassing occurred near Virginia Hall. According to police, they received a call that a man was trying to enter the hall through a basement window at 12:15 a.m. Police found Brandon Holmberg, 20, of Fredericksburg outside the hall. Holmberg said that he was supposed to meet a girl named Len at midnight and he was not trying to enter the building. Holmberg was barred from campus.

May 3—An incident of trespassing occurred at Double Drive at 4:45 a.m. Police arrested Brandon Holmberg, 20, of Fredericksburg, who had been barred from campus the day before. Holmberg said that he was dropping off his girlfriend and he told her he wasn't allowed on campus, but she insisted he take her back to her dorm. He was arrested and released on a summons. At court on June 6, he pled guilty and was fined \$25 plus court costs.

May 8—An incident of trespassing occurred near Trinkle Hall. According to police, Russell Lee Shetley, 21, of Woodbridge was selling artwork in Trinkle Hall. Officers found him outside G.W. Hall, selling artwork for a Lorton company. He was given a trespassing warning, photographed, escorted to his vehicle and barred from campus.

May 16—Three underage male students were walking on College Ave. near Chandler, attempting to conceal a silver can each, police said. An officer stopped the men and noticed the smell of alcohol. Three Natural Light beer cans were found 25 feet from where the students were stopped. The case was referred to the administration.

May 23—Damage was committed to state property near Klein Theatre sometime between April 23 and May 23. According to police, unknown persons entered the room behind the Theatre, jumped from the wall to a G.E. industrial air conditioner and used an unknown tool to write obscene words and pictures on the aluminum fins of the air conditioner. Beer bottles were also found broken on the concrete floor. The total damage is estimated at \$200. The case is under investigation.

May 23—Vandalism to state property occurred near Brompton. Five windowpanes were found broken in a barn near the President's House. Rocks were found inside the building. Police suspect that they were thrown from the fence from Park Service property. The case is under investigation.

May 30—An incident of trespassing occurred in Mourne Hall. Police said they found former student Robert William Curran, 22, of Fredericksburg at 4:13 a.m.

Curran said he went for a walk and stopped to check his email in the Mourne Hall computer lab. He was arrested, searched and found to be in possession of no weapons, but he was found with a pair of women's purple underwear. On July 7, he pled guilty of trespassing and paid a \$50 fine, plus court costs.

June 1—At 11:04 p.m., police received a call from alumni saying that a man was sleeping in a car in the Chandler parking lot and wearing no clothes. When police investigated, they found Nelson Lee Atkinson, 41, of Woodford, asleep in his car wearing only shorts, with beer cans and the rest of the clothes nearby. Atkinson was charged with being drunk in public. He was arrested and barred from campus, and his car was towed. Atkinson prepaid his court costs and fine.

June 2—In Alvey Hall, a 22-year-old admitted purchasing alcohol for an underage roommate who became ill because of a combination alcohol and medication. The ill student was taken to the hospital. Both students were referred to the administration.

June 6—An incident of petty larceny occurred near Combs. Fifty feet of brass pipe valued at \$150 was taken from the construction site. The case is under investigation.

June 12—An incident of grand larceny occurred in Combs Hall. A concrete nail gun and accessories valued at \$600 was stolen from the basement, which was unsecured. The case is under investigation.

June 13—An incident of grand larceny occurred near Randolph Hall. A red Trek 9000 mountain bike valued at \$550 was taken. The case is under investigation.

June 13—An incident of grand larceny occurred in Mourne Hall sometime between mid-April and June 11. A Dell Motiv with Hewlett Packard Deskjet Printer and keyboard were missing from room 304K. The property is valued at \$1773.43. The case is under investigation.

June 15—An RA in Alvey Hall confiscated two bottles of Samuel Adams beer from the third floor public refrigerator. The case was referred to the administration.

June 19—An incident of petty larceny and trespassing occurred along campus walk at 8:45 p.m. Police stopped Tony Colbert, 34, of Fredericksburg with a Fisher bike valued at \$100. Colbert said he saw the bike outside a building and took it because it looked better than his. He was arrested and barred from campus. Colbert missed his court date, and a capias was issued for his arrest. Two other men Colbert was with, Michael Thomas, 44, of Stafford, and Dennis Washington, 44, of Fredericksburg, also were barred from campus.

June 20—An RA in Alvey Hall confiscated four cans of Coors Light in the refrigerator of the third floor public refrigerator. The case was referred to the administration.

June 20—An incident of petty larceny occurred in Alvey hall. Two 10 lb. fire extinguishers were reported missing from the first floor. They were valued at \$100 total.

June 26—An incident of petty larceny occurred at Trinkle Hall. A 10-speed Huffy Roadmaster bike valued at \$25 was stolen between 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. It was not secured. The case is under investigation.

June 28—Three male juveniles were acting suspicious around Marshall Hall. When an officer approached them, they turned and ran. One was apprehended, and according to police, he had been drinking beer. He was barred from campus, and his parents were notified.

June 29—An incident of trespassing occurred near Westmoreland Hall. A police officer noticed five individuals in the G.W. parking lot. When they saw the officer, they walked off. They were found in the Trinkle lab. Four of the individuals were escorted to their cars. One was a juvenile, and his parents were notified.

July 6—An officer spotted a man staggering along William Street. The man was stopped at Marye's Heights, and he had possession of alcohol and bloodshot eyes. Travis Swint, 22, of Fredericksburg was arrested for drunk in public. Swint prepaid his fines and court costs.

July 7—Seven fire extinguishers valued at \$350 were taken from College Ave. near Chandler. None of them were found on college grounds. Officers found that four students were seen loading fire extinguishers in their truck. The students said they had leftover fireworks from July 4 and wanted to return sale. The case was referred to the Honor Council.

July 8—An incident of trespassing occurred in Mourne fountain. Eight people were in the fountain, which was on at the time. An officer observed eight people in front of the Mourne who were soaking wet. Some had squirt guns and were hiding behind trees. All the individuals were barred from campus.

July 8—An incident of grand larceny occurred near Alvey Hall. A tequid park bench valued at \$1032.54 was unbolted from the ground taken from in front of the hall. The last time anyone could remember seeing the bench was in the middle of June. The case was under investigation.

July 9—An incident of petty larceny occurred in Mason Hall. A \$20 Coleman ice chest valued at \$10 was taken from the soccer camp. The case is under investigation.

July 16—An incident of petty larceny occurred in Goodrick Hall. A \$20 broom rack was stolen out of a housekeeping closet. Police cannot determine a motive for the crime. The case is under investigation.

## Former Basketball Player Charged



Courtesy Battlefield

In 1997, Erika Grace (right) prepares to pass the ball. Grace, who married and changed her name to Sifrit, now could face life in prison.

### ▲ SIFRIT, page 1

degree murder, two counts of first degree assault, two counts of use of a handgun is a crime of violence and two counts of accessory after the fact of first degree murder.

State's Attorney Todd declined to comment. According to DelmarvaNow, an online newspaper, Todd filed a motion that would prohibit all witnesses in the case from talking to the media in order to prevent pretrial publicity that could taint the jury pool.

He was quoted in DelmarvaNow saying, "There has just been an inordinate amount of pretrial publicity making it increasingly difficult to be able to try the case in Worcester County. In my job I have to make sure that the defendants get a fair trial."

According to Jay Hancock, Ocean City Police Public Information Officer, the Sifrits were arrested in connection with the murder of Fairfax, Va. residents, 51-year-old Martha Crutchley and 32-year-old Joshua Ford, who were vacationing in Ocean City, Md. on Memorial Day weekend. The Sifrits were arrested May 31 when they were caught attempting to steal \$5,000 worth of merchandise from a Hooters restaurant.

Police reports state that Benjamin Sifrit was carrying a 9 mm handgun and a knife, while Erika Sifrit was armed with a .375 Magnum and a knife with a serrated blade. Blood and tissue were later found on the knife with the serrated blade. Erika Sifrit told police that her husband, who is a dishonorably discharged Navy SEAL, shot Crutchley and Ford in the bathroom of their room in the Rainbow Condominium housing complex and then cut up the bodies with the serrated knife that she was carrying. She said that he then put the bodies in large trash bags and disposed of them in a trash bin near Rehoboth, Del. where police later recovered the remains. Tests are still being done to identify the remains.

"The motive has not yet been established," Hancock said. "It is still under investigation."

According to Hancock, the Sifrits are also being investigated in connection to another murder in Blair County, Penn.

Hancock said that according to an employee at Secrets nightclub in Ocean City, Md., on May 29 Benjamin Sifrit was allegedly trying to steal money from an ATM machine when the employee grabbed him and began to escort him away from the nightclub when Erika Sifrit showed up in defense of her husband.

"She smiled that she had a gun and would use it," Hancock said.

Cookie Grace, Erika Sifrit's mother, declined to comment on anything regarding the case.

"I am not interested in talking to anybody right now," she said.

Sifrit's friends, former teammates, and hallmates declined to comment as well because they didn't want their names involved with the case.

Sifrit's professors and basketball coaches declined to comment due to all college administrators set to all college employees, reminding that no information he given about her involving her academic or judicial record while at the college.

According to the Office of College Relations, the email was sent in order to protect the college from liability.

However, before the email was sent, former Mary Washington College basketball coach, Connie Gallahan, was quoted in the June 3 issue of the Free Lance-Star saying, "Who would have ever thought? It's so shocking and unbelievable, I still can't believe it's real."

Sifrit attended Mary Washington College from fall of 1996 to the spring of 2000. Then known as Erika Grace, she was one of the Eagles' basketball squad her freshman and sophomore year.

According to the 1997 edition of the Mary Washington College Battlefield, Sifrit was an impressive three-point shooter, pacing the Capital Athletic Conference with a 479 percentage from behind the arc. Her reason for quitting the team is unknown.

Sifrit, a history major, was a member of Phi Alpha Theta her junior year.

After she graduated, Sifrit went back to her home and opened a Memory Lane, scrap-booking store in Allomona, Penn.

## Bad Press From Alumna Not Hurting College, Officials Say

### ▲ MEDIA, page 1

Ed Jones, Free Lance-Star editor, said that the focal angle, as well as the unusual violent nature of the crimes, makes the story newsworthy.

"It's not the sort of thing that happens to people from our town," Jones said.

The Free Lance-Star reported Sifrit met her husband in Fredericksburg and also may have stolen goods from a Spotsylvania Hooters restaurant, furthering the case to the Fredericksburg area.

Director of News and Information Services Mock said she believes that the sensationalism of the crime and the reputation of the college also influence why the case is receiving so much press.

"It doesn't reflect 99.9 percent of our students," Mock said. "I think because our student body is so highly regarded in this community is why this is newsworthy."

"It's the very opposite of what our student body represents."

However, even though college officials understand why the Sifrit case is newsworthy, they still don't like the

attention.

"No institution ever wants to get their name in the news in a negative way," said Mock.

College officials also said they are not trying to find more positive stories about the college to offset the negative publicity. "We're always looking for good stories about the college," Mock said.

Recently, the Free Lance-Star ran a feature story about a 1941 alumna who is one of the college's biggest supporters.

Despite the attention, Ron Singleton, senior vice president for Advancement and College relations, said he doesn't think the case is giving Mary Washington College a bad name.

"Outside of Fredericksburg, the college's name really hasn't been a factor," Singleton said.

"Most people don't try to draw a relationship between one individual and the college."

Singleton added that it is interesting the college does tout the successes of its alumni, but not the failures.

Sifrit's trial is scheduled for Dec. 2. When asked if the college will be relieved when the trial is over, Singleton replied, "Yes. I don't like it to see the college's name in a negative context."

**"It's not the sort of thing that happens to people from our town."**

**Ed Jones**



# Viewpoints

your opinions

## Editorial

### Negative Media Attention

Erika Grace Sifrit, a college alumna, and her husband are accused of double murder of the most grisly fashion, and this whole situation is, as a college administrator put it, sad. Obviously, it's sad for everyone involved; the victims, their families and even for the suspected murderers, who, if sentenced, would spend the rest of their lives in prison, but deservedly so. It's also sad for the college, the community and for us at *The Bulletin*.

Mary Washington College remains relatively quiet in terms of media attention, as it should be. Small liberal arts colleges from Virginia really shouldn't be making national news, but the Erika Sifrit case has definitely thrown more attention our way. In fact, Sifrit might be our most famous alumna, possibly beating out the former head of the National Transportation and Safety Board who was an MWC grad.

No community wants the media attention the college has been given recently, but what can you do? Nothing, except wait for the storm to pass. Sifrit's case is newsworthy, there's no doubt about that.

So, anyway, what's our point? Essentially, we're just trying to justify covering the Sifrit case. *The Bulletin* has to. It's newsworthy, and we're a newspaper. But we don't have to like it, and we don't. No one should like having to cover a crime where people are shot, dismembered and thrown into the garbage. It's sick. It's disturbing. It's embarrassing. It'd be nice to come back from summer and have "Combs Hall Reopens" as the lead story, but the actions of one alumna out of thousands won't let us.

The Erika Grace Sifrit story will be with us for a while, and you'll probably see more coverage on it in *The Bulletin*. However, we, like you, are looking forward to the end of this storm.

### Notice Anything New?

In case you got a paper missing the entire front section, we would like to announce our change to color print on our front and back pages. Not only does *The Bulletin* give the Mary Washington College campus top quality news, but will now showcase it in a top quality package as well. We hope this change excites not only us, but you as well.

the  
**Bullet**  
www.thebulletonline.com

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Advisor: Steve Watkins

The Bulletin is published on Thursdays during the fall and spring semesters. All decisions are made by the editorial board, independent of the Bulletin adviser.

## SGA Pres. To Freshmen: Find Your Niche

**MEREDITH JOHNSTON**  
Guest Columnist

Good afternoon! Let me begin by saying that due to this ninety-degree weather, I will keep this brief. That said, welcome to your college years—a time of no parents, no curfews, and complete responsibility for your actions. When I sat down to write this speech, the memories of my first move-in day came flooding back to me. Let me paint you a quick picture of my experience three years ago. It was unbearably hot much like today. My parents and I thought that we would get here early to beat some of the heat. Right after one trip up and down those three flights of stairs, my father was already cursing under his breath and muttering how he could not believe that he was paying out of state tuition for me to be stuck on the third floor of an unairconditioned dorm with two other girls. I tried not to walk to close to him, hoping that people would not associate him with me. To further add to my embarrassment, my mother had already mailed several floor plans drawn to scale to my two roommates, so I was convinced that they already thought that I was psychotic. All I could

do was try to muster a smile to my hall mates as I sweated like a pig, carrying endless boxes up to my room. So yes, I feel your pain.

Although this is an extremely exciting time for you as you begin to adjust to your new community, at this moment right before your parents depart and college finally becomes real for you, most of you are scared, or at least nervous about finding your place among 3800 students. No matter what your interests may be—whether it is student activities, academics, sports, the arts, or any other avenue, there are numerous outlets for you to express yourself and to gain a sense of belonging in this community. The sooner you begin to explore your interests, and thus find others with common interests, the sooner you will come to love Mary Washington as not just your college, but your home.

I want to share with you how I found my niche here at Mary Washington, so you may formulate ideas on how to discover your role on campus. The first couple weeks of my freshman year, I felt like I was away at summer camp. It was as if I were in limbo. I knew that I did not belong at home, yet felt like an outsider on campus. Sure, I hung out with some of my hall mates, but I was not really close to anyone of them. I

would come back to my room from class at one, and just sit around watching television and "IM"ing my friends from high school until dinner with my hall mates. I just did not feel settled.

However, I quickly became sick of just sitting around. It just was not my nature. In high school I was always active, always busy. I realized that I was disappointed with myself. I was so excited to come here and make a new start, to define myself as the person that I had always wanted to be, yet I was just existing. It was at that point that I decided to make an effort to step out of my comfort zone and pursue my interests. I wandered into my hall mates' rooms and found myself hanging out there all the time. I went to Club Carnival and got information and meeting times for the organizations that I was interested in.

I attempted to drag some of my hall mates to the meetings, but much to my dismay I had to attend several alone. However, it turned out that I found many of my fellow classmates there looking as lost as I felt. Some of the organizations seemed to fit, while others were not what I had suspected. And that is how I found my niche at MWC. You

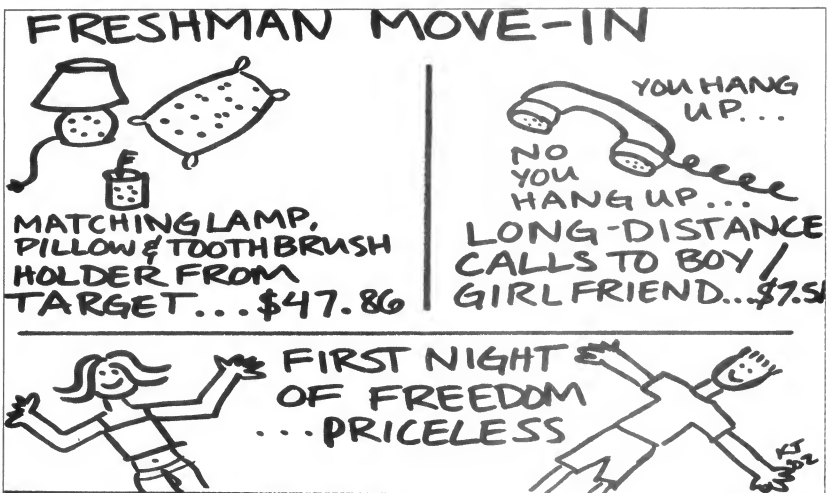
will embark on a similar voyage, and you too will call this community your home.

As someone who is very involved in campus activities, I highly recommend that you make an effort to hang out with your hall mates, to introduce yourself to the person next to you in class, to go to Club Carnival on Sept. 2, and to actually attend a meeting. You will find many of your classmates doing the same, and that upperclassmen will welcome your fresh ideas and enthusiasm. You need to ask yourself whether you are here to get a degree or get an education.

I am not saying that this journey will be an easy one, but it is a necessary one. I promise you that in several months you will look back and wonder why you were so apprehensive. Turn to your Orientation Leaders and RA's if you have questions or concerns along the way, and you can always approach me at any time. As student body president, I am here to represent you and to be a resource for you, so don't be a stranger.

In closing, welcome again and have a great time during this week of no classes. Thank you.

*Meredith Johnston is a senior and SGA President. This column is a copy of her welcome speech to freshmen.*



## Letters to the Editor

### Dreaming Of Fruit...

Dear Editor:

I have a dream that one day the residents of this campus will rise up and live on the true meaning of the MWC creed. We hold these truths to be self-evident that all fruit are created equal.

I have a dream that one day on the green slopes of Seacoast the fruit of South America and the fruits of Europe and Asia will be placed together at buffet lines of the Rose Room in Seacoast Hall.

I have a dream that one day, even the Mangoes of Brazil, a fruit sweltering under the heat of oppression, will be transformed into a staple fixture in the lunch lines of MWC.

I have a dream that the patrons of our three dining rooms and their future progeny will one day eat in a hall where no fruit will be judged by the color of its skin but by its nutritional content and the sweetness of its flavor.

I have a dream today. I have a dream that one day every fruit shall be available, and every flavor and every texture shall be made available, the rotten shall be exchanged with the fresh and the bruised replaced with the unbruised and the glory of the food shall be revealed and all fruit shall be eaten together.

This is our hope. This is the faith that I will go back to my dorm with. With this faith we will be able to live out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope.

With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our Campus into a beautiful symphony of Euphorian harmony.

With this faith we will be able to study together, to

pray together, to research together, to go to class together, to climb up for freedom together. Knowing that we will be rejuvenated and revitalized by the sweetness of the fruit.

This will be the day when all of MWC's residents will be able to say, with new meaning, "The Power of Fruit is a curious thing, it makes a one resident a 3800 makes another one sing. Change your steak to a 3800 little root. More than a feeling, that's the power of 3800."

And if MWC is to be a great college, this 3800 become true. So let all fruit be eaten equally, from the hills of Goodluck, let freedom ring from the halls of Marshall.

Let fruit be eaten from the flowery slopes of Rumsig.

Let fruit be eaten from the luxurious lobby of Hall Hall.

Let fruit be eaten from the emerald fields of the Battleground.

But not only that, let fruit be eaten from the jagged steps of GW Hall.

Let fruit be eaten from every dorm and hall at MWC. And when this happens, when we let all fruit be represented and eaten equally, when we let a diverse selection of fruit be eaten from every tenement and every hamlet of this Campus, we will be able to speed up that day when all of MWC's residents, freshmen sophomores, juniors, and seniors, be they from Ecuador to Pakistan, China to Malawi, will be able to join hands and eat all fruit together in the words of the old spiritual

"Fruit at last, Fruit at last. Thank God Almighty, we have fruit at last."

Christopher I. Wylacht  
Junior

## Bullet Letter and Editorial Policy

*The Bulletin* is always eager to receive letters to the editorial board, and every effort is made to publish them. We have numerous letters on one letter, so please, if you have a letter to the Bulletin, please send it to the editor.

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The Bulletin has two policies: anonymous letters or columns. All letters must be signed, and a phone number and address must be included to facilitate verification of authorship of the letter. Letters and columns can be sent to The Bulletin at 1701 College Avenue, Fairfax, VA, 22031-4666, delivered to our office in Seacoast Hall or sent to our email address at [bullet@mw.edu](mailto:bullet@mw.edu).

Opinions expressed in columns or letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of The Bulletin staff. The staff editorial represents the opinions of The Bulletin editorial board and not necessarily those of the college, student body or entire Bulletin staff.

# Features

extras about people and places

## Fast Fact:

Contrary to popular belief, the Great Wall of China is not the only man-made object that can be seen from outer space.



to the advent of tests and papers and class



to Combs Hall opening at last—it was only a few years behind schedule!



to alumni accused of murder giving the college a bad name



to all the big plants on campus—MWC feels like a jungle!



to Major League Baseball for probably going to strike



to the college's student newspaper getting color

## in the stars

**Aries** - The stars have been trying to tell you that you should apply to work at The Bulletin. Cartoonists and other staff members are needed.

**Taurus** - While you knew that mankind lost spending eternity in Paradise, before this week, you never suspected that it was all your fault.

**Gemini** - Problems abound when the laws of gravity stop working for you during one of your classes.

**Cancer** - Why don't you get a haircut for God's sake, you hippie?

**Leo** - You will once again miss the point when during your sexual harassment trial, you hit on every single person in the courtroom.

**Virgo** - You feel yourself moving up in the world when you master the phrase "Would you like fries with that?"

**Libra** - You will win the lottery. Congratulations.

**Scorpio** - Your mother was wrong. You won't even be hired to pump gas your entire life.

**Sagittarius** - Beware of Tibetans named Chucks. They think you owe them money.

**Capricorn** - You come to the conclusion that horoscopes are hogwash, but that won't stop you from still checking yours daily.

**Aquarius** - You gain hope of superpowers when you will be bitten by a genetically altered spider. Unless you consider nausau and chills to be superpowers, you will be disappointed.

**Pisces** - Pisces isn't speaking to you because you are one of its relatives last week for dinner.

# House On Haunted Hill

## Does Former Infirmary Mercer Hall Contain A Ghost?

By PHILLIP GRIFFITH  
News Editor

"From ghoulies and ghosties and long-legged beasties and things that go bump in the night, Good Lord deliver us!"—Scottish Prayer

In the fall semester of 2000, the resident assistants of Mercer and Willard Halls had had enough. Residents kept coming to them complaining of strange noises and disturbances in Mercer Hall, so they did what any good, caring RA would do. They work-ordered an exorcism.

"It wasn't serious or anything," says former Willard RA Ken Jones. "But had they gone through with it, we wouldn't have complained. It was the whole running gag that Mercer's haunted."

Facilities Services never performed the exorcism. And even now, despite Jones' belief that it's a gag that Mercer is haunted, residents of Mercer still report strange disturbances, and many swear a ghost inhabits the building.

**"Q: What do ghosts like to have for dinner?"**  
**A: Iced screams."**—Anon

**Hugh Mercer Hall.** Hidden on a hill and surrounded by trees behind Willard and Woodard, many students don't even know it exists. Although tales of hauntings in Marshall and Framar Halls also persist, Mercer Hall is currently Mary Washington College's own version of "The House on Haunted Hill."

Students tell of strange noises, hearing their belongings moved around and various other odd events. Housekeepers report about mirrors that cannot be cleaned.

Even RAs and other people who work there are scared of the building. Some friends of current residents even refuse to go inside it.

Erected in 1951 to be an infirmary, in 1983 it became a dorm, and now many subscribe to the idea that a ghost inhabits the building. The stories of Mercer Hall being haunted seem to have originated in the late 80s, shortly after the building became a dorm. No records indicate that anyone died in the building, even though it was an infirmary for over 30 years. In Bulletin articles mentioning Mercer, nothing indicates that the building is haunted, although once seven students seemingly irate about their living situation did appear on the front cover of the newspaper holding a sign that says "GET US OUT OF MERCER!"

Perhaps it's because of the thousands of soldiers who died in Fredericksburg during the Civil War. Or the fact that the building doesn't feel like a dorm, with ceramic tiles on the walls, you might think you've stumbled into a hospital. The most likely theory is that the ghost stories may have originated from students having plumbing problems in the building when they first moved in, with toilets flushing by themselves. Regardless, the rumors persist, passing from class to class.



Phillip Griffith/Bulletin

Hugh Mercer Hall is rumored to be haunted. Could that bright light be the ghost?

"I see dead people."—"The Sixth Sense"

Rita Smith and Barbara Parker are the two housekeepers for Mercer Hall and have been there for over a year. If you ask them, they'll tell you about the ghost. The building isn't haunted when students are there, they say, but when people go home, that's when the ghost comes out.

Two summers ago, they went to clean a room on the first floor when something unusual happened. They were trying to clean a mirror, and they kept wiping it and wiping it. But as they scrubbed, words appeared.

"We were cleaning it and cleaning, and writing kept appearing," Smith said. "Both housekeepers swear this is what happened, but they decline to say what the writing said, only that it was 'swear words, hate words.'"

"That's the one that had me scared," Parker said.

Smith added that they often hear weird noises in the building, and over winter break music kept coming from one empty room.

Mandy Huff, resident director of Mercer, has heard the stories the housekeepers tell.

"Yes, I believe there is a ghost, cause I'm naive and I'm suggestible," she says.

Once, when Huff first came to work at the college, she was alone in the building and heard strange noises.

"I freaked out and ran out of the building," she says. "However, when students ask me if there is a ghost in Mercer, I tell them no."

**"Vex not his ghost: O, let him pass! He hates him much/That would upon the rack of this tough world/Stretch him out longer."**—William Shakespeare, "King Lear"

According to Associate Professor of Historic Preservation and folklore expert Gary Stanton, college campuses are ripe with opportunities for ghost stories.

"I think the idea of a ghost doesn't surprise me at all," he says. "The stories are something that would run to the emotional excitement of students at our school. But they're not seeing ghosts at every turn. The nature of that experience is not enough to people every building with ghosts."

Stanton says that typically ghost stories arise out of unusual objects, and stories become attached to those objects. Mercer Hall, with its status as a former infirmary, is unusual for a college dormitory.

He says that perhaps future stories may arise about the amphitheater, the spirit rock, the Phi Beta Kappa key or the James Farmer statue.

"People read about ghosts, and then they interpret things that appear out of the ordinary," Stanton explains. "Ghost stories are ways to explain the out of the ordinary."

**"I ain't afraid a no ghosts."**—"Ghostbusters"

For many Mercer residents and others involved in the building, the stories of the building being haunted are just that—stories.

"Personally, I don't believe in superstitions," said Assistant Director of Residence Life and Housing Hassel Morrison. "I don't think I believe in ghosts. If I do, I think they're friendly."

"I believe in ghosts like in 'The Sixth Sense.' Have you seen that?"

Mat Garber, who lived on the second floor of Mercer, also doesn't think that the building is haunted.

"Nah, I don't think there's a ghost," he says. "Not unless it's [his roommate] Brent."

Nancy Nguyen, another former resident, said she used to be scared to be in the building but not anymore.

"I was really nervous last semester," she says. "I had my rosary, but now, I don't care any more."

Stephanie Boczar, Nguyen's suitemate agreed.

"I'm not that superstitious, but I wouldn't be looking forward to spending another semester here," she says.

Janie Spencer, who lived by himself in a single, also doesn't believe in the ghost, any more.

"I'd heard stories about it," he says.

Spencer adds that the first time the heater in his room turned on, he jumped up and ran to the door because of the noise.

Abby Kistler, who lived in 210, gives the impression that she thinks the ghost stories are just hogwash.

"Our doors close on their own, but that's just the wind," she says. "He/She/It stays over there [in room 209]."

## Room 209

Gretchen Wietmarshen, Stephanie Eyes, Laura Dickinson and Laura Hensley occupied room 209, and none of them believed in ghosts. All that is different now though. Their furniture has been moved around, noises occurred for no reasons, the refrigerator opened and closed on its own, posters fell down abruptly, the computers typed by themselves at night, pictures have been rotated 90 degrees and one of them has even seen a white figure sitting in a chair.

"The ghost really doesn't like U2," Eyes notes. "The women have three U2 posters that fall down constantly, while the other posters stay up."

"It likes all the rest of our posters," she says.

Eyes adds that once she was woken up by loud noises on the night before she had a test. She proceeded to sleep at the ghosts.

"I was like 'Screw you, I have a goddamn test tomorrow,'" she says. "I was so pissed. I was like 'Leave me alone or I will kill you even though you're already dead.'"

The noises then stopped, she says. Wietmarshen explains that lots of times, the ghost is just noisy.

"If I ask it to be quiet, it will stop," she says.

Once, according to Wietmarshen, she went to sleep with a stuffed animal on her bed.

When she awoke, the toy was sitting three feet away from her on the floor, staring up directly at her.

Dickinson adds that she has a friend who refused to visit because the ghost touched her when she was asleep.

According to Alyssa Crouch, a former Mercer RA, the same thing happened to a different resident a year ago in the same room.

"Nothing had happened," Dickinson says. "But it's really weird."

Wietmarshen agrees.

"It just makes things more interesting," she says.

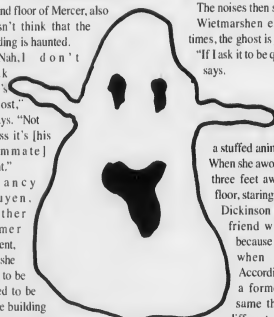
## Room 309

Directly upstairs in room 309, stories of the not-so-unexplainable continue.

▼ see GHOSTS, page 6

**"People read about ghosts, and then they interpret things that appear out of the ordinary. Ghost stories are ways to explain the out of the ordinary."**

Gary Stanton



# Searching For Roots

## Student Recovers Nigerian Culture

By OSASHA KAYE

Archie Harris

It's the day of August and the region of another joyous school year. The place that will never change is my home. The Mary Washington College is that place where every single one of my professors will always be there in the process of trying to provide me with the best education to see the Kodak images of my life. They look on their face at the world as it is now.

My father was a professor of history 171 professor who had a lot of things to say. He took of his jacket and gave me a few times while saying "before you go, don't say anything."

I get a strange feeling sometimes just sitting there at my desk as the professor looks at me, knowing at the back of my head my syllable Nigerian name will not flow from his tongue as smoothly as Kim Smith's or Alice Johnson's.

This summer when I went back home to Nigeria, I gained more appreciation for my name as well as the culture that came with it, the culture I was born into. The highlight of my current experience was during the first week of August, the week of my grandfather's burial.

"You're going to walk till you almost die," my mom said as we drove to the house where we were starting the *ison* from. "You'll be crawling to the plane on Saturday," she said laughing. As we can imagine, I was not amused.

It was Wednesday, Aug. 7, day six of my grandfather's seven-day burial in Benin, the city I was born. It was the day of *ison*.

*Ison*, which is a part of traditional Benin burials, is a walk to the house of the deceased to pledge loyalty the eldest son, who is taking over the traditional duties of his father. In my family's case, my father is the first son so everyone had to *ison* to him. He has to take over my grandfather's position as the Ezama (chief) of Benin City.

All the children and grandchildren performed the *ison*, but each was led by the eldest sons of each of the seven women that had children by my grandfather, excluding my dad. All the married daughters and the eldest grandsons also led *ison*s. My grandfather had 24 children and 26 grandchildren.

The distance walked could range from less than a mile to about 15 miles, depending on where the *egbe* (elders) decide each person should start walking. Each *ison* had to make a stop at the statue of Emotan, a traditional Benin heroine, and then ended at my grandfather's house, where my father was sitting and waiting with the *egbe*.

As one of the granddaughters, I had to dress up in the required attire. I had to tie around my chest an orange lace wrapper that reached down to my ankles. Underneath the wrapper I had on a tube top and a short skirt, in case the wrapper fell. Better safe than sorry, right? I had white chalk painted below my collar bone in a V-shape. I wore two coral bead necklaces around my neck, one short and one long, as well as a coral bead bracelet on each wrist. My hair was put up and decorated with coral beads. Unfortunately for me, I had gotten my hair braided with extensions the day before, so as you can imagine getting my hair beaded was very painful. In my right I held an *abokpo*. It is made of bronze and in the shape of a ruler, only it has a slightly sharp point end and circled bottom. The *abokpo* is the female symbol for the mourning of the dead so all the daughters and granddaughters had to carry it, pointing it to the sky as they walked.

It must have been around 5:30 p.m. when we started walking with a large group of people. I was in the front with my two sisters, Faith and Amenze, and my brother Zusi, and my twin cousins Taty and Kehinde. Since my brother is the eldest grandson, he had to lead the eight-mile *ison*. To signify that he was the leader of the *ison* he wore a hat that looked a little bit like a cowboy hat and he had his arms spread out and held by two men. He also carried a dagger, which is the male symbol for the mourning of the dead. The other grandchildren either *isoned* with their parents or could not make it to the burial. My sisters and cousins were dressed similarly to me while my brothers tied wrappers over their cargo shorts. They also wore coral bead necklaces and bracelets.

As I walked with my brothers and sisters and a large crowd of almost 200 extended family members and friends in between the flowing traffic on Ekevan Road in Benin City, not once did we almost get hit by a car because there were about ten of my dad's armed military officers surrounding the crowd and conducting the traffic. My dad is a Colonel in the Nigerian Army.

The people were singing traditional Benin songs in our language and dancing behind us. There were drummers playing the background music for the songs. I didn't know the words to the songs...heck, I can barely even speak the language, but I did dance. My sisters made sure to point and laugh at my embarrassing dancing skills.

"Hello fine princesses," said a dark-skinned young man in the passenger seat of a yellow public bus as he waved and then blew kisses at my sisters and I. I ignored him and tried to keep in mind that eight miles wasn't really that long of a distance and would be over before I knew it. And besides, if he tried anything funny I could just stab him with my *abokpo*. "Keep moving," one of the soldiers screamed at the driver of the bus. The driver quickly increased his speed and was out of sight in no time.

By the time we got the statue of Emotan, I was sweating buckets and all my make up had run down my face. The chalk on my chest was also running down with the sweat, staining my orange wrapper. We had to pay respects to her grave by paying money to her grave keeper. It is a sort of sacrifice made to her. He only spoke in Benin so my grandfather had to translate what he said into broken-English.

After we left the statue of Emotan, the walk was easier. I was dancing and humming the songs and laughing with my cousins. In no time we were back at my grandfather's house. Inside the compound my dad was sitting down with the *egbe* waiting for us to come and pledge loyalty to him. We stood in front of him and danced around a picture of my grandfather. He then took out his dagger and my brother took his out and they touched daggers and then my brother raised his to the sky. This represents the loyalty pledge and paying respect to my grandfather.

As we were driving back home in the car I sat quietly thinking. I had been away from Benin culture for almost nine years and in one day I experienced a what seemed like a life time worth of tradition. It was beautiful.

I'm so used to being the African girl who stands out because I have the hard name to say. But I realized that every time my name is mispronounced it is just a reminder that my name is a part of a culture that is different from the one Mary Washington has to offer.

So now, I won't get as offended when my name is butchered in front of the whole class. Besides, it's not like I can change it. I mean, do I really look like a Kelly?



First Person

# Former MWC Grads Find A Home In Fredericksburg

By C. RUTH CASSELL

Issues Editor

In a survey of 50 students ranging from freshmen to seniors, 14 said that they thought the relationship between Mary Washington College and the town of Fredericksburg was "non-existent." Twelve students noted that they thought the relationship was "bad," while the remaining 24 respondents picked from the options "fair," "good" or "excellent." Three students selected the latter of the choices. The survey was conducted as part of a class project for Speech 206 in the spring 2002 semester.

Despite the apparent lack of interest between the town and the college, each year a handful of students, many whom find part-time work in downtown Fredericksburg or choose local activities over college social settings. Many of these students moved to attend Mary Washington College from another town, which may have been smaller or less interesting than the small theme-parkish city of 19,000 that they soon call home. Nonetheless, Mary Washington College alumni speckle the town and most settle into a pleasant life as part of the Old Town Fredericksburg scenery.

Students and administrative officers have put energy and resources into documenting the troubled relationship between Mary Washington College and the town of Fredericksburg. According to Ray Pope, assistant vice president of the Office of Planning, Assessment and Research, his office and the Office of Alumni Relations track where incoming students reside before admission and where alumni move after graduation. However, he says that the college has no records showing how many students moved into Fredericksburg to attend Mary Washington College who continue to claim residency in the town after graduation.

Dean of Student Life Cedric Rucker also recognizes the gap in relations between the college and the town and he compares Fredericksburg and Mary Washington College to Charlottesville, Va., and the University of Virginia. He says that 75 percent of Charlottesville residents are connected with the university, many because they are alumni.

"Fredericksburg is not a college town, it is a town with a college in it," he says.

"It's not a trend the college has records of," he says. "But, I know from personal experience that some students who graduate from Mary Washington either stay in town for a few years or move back to Fredericksburg to raise a family."

Graduating students do stay in Fredericksburg, some for a year or two and others for a lifetime. Some, like Abby Johnson, stay because they find love and others, like David Harris, don't leave because the sense of community keeps them hoping that a career opportunity waits behind the next ornate storefront.

### Abby Johnson

Johnson, 24, sits at her newly purchased computer, tries to keep her young rambunctious golden retriever entertained with a lamb shank bone, and looks up information about small business plans on the internet. She graduated from Mary Washington College with a Bachelor of Science in Business in 1998 and, although she did get a promising job opportunity in Fredericksburg after graduation, she says that the people in the town are what really drew her to stay.

"I like the people in Fredericksburg because they are nice," she says. "Now, you have the haughty-laughies who make money in the city and then come here to live, but the people in the downtown area make the town for me."

Johnson lives with her boyfriend Blake Bethem and her excitable young dog Bailey in a small house with a front porch and green shutters off of Fall Hill Avenue. She works as a lunch server and hostess at Bistro 309 on William Street, where Bethem works as the Chef de Cuisine. She spends any free time making plans for the family-style restaurant that she and Bethem hope to open. She says, though, that she wishes her Mary Washington College education had better prepared her for starting her own business.

"Well, when I first came to college I thought I wanted to be an environmental lawyer, but I took one biology class and I was out of there," she laughs. "I studied business, but I did not like the fact that there wasn't a lot of choice. I wanted to concentrate on marketing and I did, but that was only four classes. You had to take business administration, and there was nothing about starting or running a small business."

She says that Mary Washington College and Fredericksburg fit her well when she picked a place to be her home for at least four years.

"I chose Mary Washington first because it was a state school," she says. "But, I did not want to go to a big school, they scared me to death. I wanted a place that was close enough so that I could drive home if I wanted to, but far enough away that I couldn't go home all the time."

Fredericksburg almost seems like a big city to Johnson, who spent her last three years in high school in Hillsville, Va. and grew up in a small town in New Hampshire. She has sort of a down home, small town girl look to her. She usually wears her hair just above-the-shoulders dark hair pulled straight back in a ponytail and, when not

in work uniform, she sports sweats or jeans and a T-shirt.

She says that when she graduated from Mary Washington College, the idea of returning to her parent's home inspired her to remain in Fredericksburg.

"One reason I stayed here was because going home was not an option and I'm not so free-spirited that I could move across the country by myself," she explains.

Another reason she stayed, though, was Bethem. They met when he was a line cook and she a server at Riverview, a steak and seafood restaurant that sits on Sophia Street right up against the Rappahannock River. She worked there the summer after her junior year in college and through her senior year when she was living with a friend in Snowden Apartments. After graduation she moved into a one-bedroom apartment on Winchester Street with her dog Bailey, and the owners of Riverview offered her a management position.

"Working in the restaurant was my social environment while I was in school," she says. "My friends and I hung out downtown and in my apartment, but we weren't involved in school organizations. I wasn't looking to be too involved."

Johnson says that she thought the management job at Riverview was as close as she would get to a title in business management directly out of school, and she liked working with the owners. She also remembers how she and Bethem, who she moved in with in July 2001, met and began seeing one another.

"We worked together so we saw each other a lot, but the relationship started off pretty slow," she says.

"By the time I left Riverview he had already gone to work at Bistro 309. He and I had even talked about buying the building to open a restaurant before they sold it out from underneath us."

The new owners of Riverview left Johnson go in September 2001, after she had worked for the establishment for three years. She says that, though she was upset by the loss of her job, she was glad to move on from that restaurant if she and Bethem could not run it themselves.

She worked for Vanessa Moncure, also a Mary Washington College graduate, at Chez V Catering as the Head Party Coordinator for four months. In January 2002 she began working with Bethem again at Bistro 309, which is owned by Moncure and another Mary Washington College graduate Jay Comfort, because the restaurant opened for lunch hours and needed an available server.

"I don't mind working with Blake again, because we really don't see each other all that much," she says. "He works a lot and I only work 25 hours a week. So, I have time to take care of the house and research about starting our own business. I am glad that we could afford this new computer, though, because it has helped with my planning."

### David Harris

Harris, 31, sits at a cafe table outside of Hyperion Espresso in downtown Fredericksburg, with a large cup of coffee in one hand and a cigarette in his mouth, admiring his latest purchase from Apple Music. He just traded in his electric recording equipment for a handmade acoustic mandolin and he admires it like one would look at a small child as he tells a fellow musician about the incredible sound he gets from the wooden instrument.

During his time in Fredericksburg, Harris has had his hand in everything from construction to playing hard core music in a local band. He has held a job, or two, since he came to Fredericksburg from Virginia Beach in the fall of 1989 to attend Mary Washington College and study English.

"I came for the value," he says bluntly. "I don't think it is as true now, but then the school was considered a good deal for a good education. I didn't even search out any other colleges. Hell, I never even looked at Mary Washington, I just showed up."

He may have just shown up for college, but Harris has made a place for himself in the town of Fredericksburg. He now works as head chef at Chez V, the local catering company owned by alumna Moncure, and remains active in what is left of the local music scene.

"When I came to Fredericksburg there was a lot more live music," Harris says. "Good East Coast acts would come to downtown clubs and have all the time. Now, it hinders me because it seems like Fredericksburg is growing out of control. The quantity of living is going up, but the quality of living is going down."

In 1989 Harris finished high school in Virginia Beach and a friend suggested Mary Washington College because of its reputation as a small liberal arts college that concentrated on academics. Harris says he also liked the close community in Fredericksburg and the small classrooms that only had 10-15 students. During his freshman year, he lived in Randolph Hall with his friend who had recommended the school.

"I don't know if they do this anymore, but then they were kind of cool and they put a bunch of us musicians together on the first and second floor of Randolph," he says. "So there was a lot of drinking and playing music and smoking weed, I didn't smoke then though."

Finishing his freshman year with a 3.8 GPA, Harris says that Joseph DiBella, now distinguished professor of Art and Art History, attracted him to

see HOME, page 6



Photo Courtesy Osashia Kaye

Airhiybere (second from left) prepares for her grandfather's funeral with her family.

# Features

extras about people and places

## Fast Fact:

Contrary to popular belief, the Great Wall of China is not the only man-made object that can be seen from outer space.

## thumbs



to the advent of tests and papers and class



to Combs Hall opening at last—it was only a few years behind schedule!



to alumni accused of murder giving the college a bad name



to all the big plants on campus—MWC feels like a jungle!



to Major League Baseball for probably going to strike



to the college's student newspaper getting color

## in the stars

**Aries** - The stars have been trying to tell you that you should apply to work at The Bulletin. Cartoonists and other staff members are needed.

**Taurus** - While you knew that mankind lost spending eternity in Paradise, before this week, you never suspected that it was all your fault.

**Gemini** - Problems abound when the laws of gravity stop working for you during one of your classes.

**Cancer** - Why don't you get a haircut for God's sake, you hippie?

**Leo** - You will once again miss the point when during your sexual harassment trial, you hit on every single person in the courtroom.

**Virgo** - You feel yourself moving up in the world when you master the phrase "Would you like fries with that?"

**Libra** - You will win the lottery. Congratulations.

**Scorpio** - Your mother was wrong. You won't even be hired to pump gas your entire life.

**Sagittarius** - Beware of Tibetans named Chuckles. They think you owe them money.

**Capricorn** - You come to the conclusion that horoscopes are hogwash, but that won't stop you from still checking yours daily.

**Aquarius** - You gain hope of superpowers when you will be bitten by a genetically altered spider. Unless you consider nausaeus and chills to be superpowers, you will be disappointed.

**Pisces** - Pisces isn't speaking to you because you ate one of its relatives last week for dinner.

# House On Haunted Hill

## Does Former Infirmary Mercer Hall Contain A Ghost?

By PHILLIP GRIFFITH  
News Editor

"From ghouls and ghosties and long-legged beasties and things that go bump in the night, Good Lord deliver us!"—Scottish Prayer

In the fall semester of 2000, the resident assistants of Mercer and Willard Halls had had enough. Residents kept coming to them complaining of strange noises and disturbances in Mercer Hall, so they did what any good, caring RA would do. They work-ordered an exorcism.

"It wasn't serious or anything," says former Willard RAKen Jones. "But had they gone through with it, we wouldn't have complained. It was the whole running gag that Mercer's haunted."

Facilities Services never performed the exorcism. And even now, despite Jones' belief that it's a gag that Mercer is haunted, residents of Mercer still report strange disturbances, and many swear a ghost inhabits the building.

"Q: What do ghosts like to have for dinner?  
A: Iced screams."—Anon

**Hugh Mercer Hall.** Hidden on a hill and surrounded by trees behind Willard, and Woodard, many students don't even know it exists. Although tales of hauntings in Marshall and Framar Halls also persist, Mercer Hall is currently Mary Washington College's own version of "The House on Haunted Hill."

Students tell of strange noises, hearing things moving around and various other odd events. Housekeepers report about mirrors that cannot be cleaned. Even RAs and other people who work there are scared of the building. Some friends of current residents even refuse to go inside it.

Erected in 1951 to be an infirmary, in 1983 it became a dorm, and now many subscribe to the idea that a ghost inhabits the building. The stories of Mercer Hall being haunted seem to have originated in the late 80s, shortly after the building became a dorm. No records indicate that anyone died in the building, even though it was an infirmary for over 30 years. In Bulletin articles mentioning Mercer, nothing indicates that the building is haunted, although once seven students seemingly irate about their living situation did appear on the front cover of the newspaper holding a sign that says "GET US OUT OF MERCER!"

Perhaps it's because of the thousands of soldiers who died in Fredericksburg during the Civil War. Or the fact that the building doesn't feel like a dorm, with ceramic tiles on the walls, you might think you've stumbled into a hospital. The most likely theory is that the ghost stories may have originated from students having plumbing problems in the building when they first moved in, with toilets flushing by themselves. Regardless, the rumors persist, passing from class to class.



Phillip Griffith/Bulletin

Hugh Mercer Hall is rumored to be haunted. Could that bright light be the ghost?

"I see dead people."—"The Sixth Sense"

Rita Smith and Barbara Parker are the two housekeepers for Mercer Hall and have been for over a year. If you ask them, they'll tell you about the ghost. The building isn't haunted when students are there, they say, but when people go home, that's when the ghost comes out.

Two summers ago, they went to clean a room on the first floor when something unusual happened. They were trying to clean a mirror, and they kept wiping it and wiping it. But as they scrubbed, words appeared.

"We were cleaning it and cleaning, and writing kept appearing," Smith said. "Both housekeepers swear this is what happened, but they decline to say what the writing said, only that it was 'swear words, hate words.'"

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Gary Stanton

strange noises. "I freaked out and ran out of the building," she says. "However, when students ask me if there is a ghost in Mercer, I tell them no."

"Vex not his ghost; O, let him pass! He hates him much/That would upon the rack of this tough world/Stretch him out longer."—William Shakespeare, "King Lear"

According to Associate Professor of Historic Preservation and folklore expert Gary Stanton, college campuses are ripe with opportunities for ghost stories.

"I think the idea of a ghost doesn't surprise me at all," he says. "The stories are something that would run to the emotional excitement of students at our school. But they're not seeing ghosts at every turn. The nature of that experience is not enough to people every building with ghosts."

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"I ain't afraid a no ghosts."—"Ghostbusters"

For many Mercer residents and others involved in the building, the stories of the building being haunted are just that—stories.

"Personally, I don't believe in superstitions," said Assistant Director of Residence Life and Housing Hassel Morrison. "I don't think I believe in ghosts. If I do, I think they're friendly."

"I believe in ghosts like in 'The Sixth Sense.' Have you seen that?"

Man Garber, who lived on the second floor of Mercer, also doesn't think that the building is haunted.

"Nah, I don't think there's a ghost, cause I'm naive and I'm suggestible," she says.

Once, when Huff first came to work at the college, she was alone in the building and heard

"I was really nervous last semester," she says. "I had my rosary, but now, I don't care anymore."

Stephanie Boczar, Nguyen's suite-mate agreed. "I'm not that superstitious, but I wouldn't be looking forward to spending another semester here," she says.

Janie Spencer, who lived by herself in a single, also doesn't believe in the ghost, anymore.

"I'd heard stories about it," he says.

Spencer adds that the first time the heater in his room turned on, he jumped up and ran to the door because of the noise. Abby Kistler, who lived in 210, gives the impression that she thinks the ghost stories are just hogwash.

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Eyes adds that once she was woken up by loud noises on the night before she had a test. She proceeded to yell at the ghosts.

"I was like 'Screw you, I have a goddamn test tomorrow,'" she says. "I was so pissed. I was like 'Leave me alone or I will kill you even though you're already dead.'"

The noises then stopped, she says. Wietmarshen explains that lots of times, the ghost is just noisy.

"If I ask it to be quiet, it will stop," she says.

Once, according to Wietmarshen, she went to sleep with a stuffed animal on her bed. When she awoke, the toy was sitting three feet away from her on the floor, staring up directly at her.

Dickinson adds that she has a friend who refused to visit because the ghost touched her when she was asleep.

According to Alyssa Crouch, a former Mercer RA, the same thing happened to a different resident a year ago in the same room.

"Nothing had happened," Dickinson says. "But it's really weird."

Wietmarshen agrees. "It just makes things more interesting," she says.

## Room 309

Directly upstairs in room 309, stories of the not-so-uneventful continue.

▼ SEE GHOSTS, page 6



# Searching For Roots

## Student Recovers Nigerian Culture

By OSASU AIRIABERE

Associate Editor

It's the end of August and the beginning of another joyous school year. One thing that will never change at my time here at Mary Washington College is that each semester every single one of my professors will destroy my name in the process of trying to pronounce it. It's always entertaining to see the Kodak moment deer-in-headlights look on their face at the very sight of my name.

My favorite was my freshman year History 121 professor who had to clean his glasses lenses, take off his jacket, and pace around the room a few times while sighing, before he even got around to saying my name.

I get a strange feeling sometimes just sitting there at my desk as the professor takes attendance, knowing in the back of my head that my ten syllable Nigerian name will not flow from the mouth of my smoothly as Kim Smith's or Alice Johnson's.

This summer when I went back home to Nigeria, I gained more appreciation for my name as well as the culture that came with it, the culture I was born into. The highlight of my cultural experience was during the first week of August, the week of my grandfather's burial.

"You're going to walk till you almost die," my mom said as we drove to the house where we were starting the *isoton*. "You'll be crawling to the place on Saturday," she said laughing. As you can imagine, I was not amused.

It was Wednesday, Aug. 7, day six of my grandfather's seven-day burial in Benin, the city I was born. It was the day of *isoton*.

*Isoton*, which is a part of traditional Benin burials, is a walk to the house of the deceased to pledge loyalty the eldest son, who is taking over the traditional duties of his father. In my family's case, my father is the first son so everyone had to *isoton* to him. He has to take over my grandfather's position as the Ezama (chief) of Benin City.

All the children and grandchildren performed the *isoton*, but each was led by the eldest sons of each of the seven women that had children for my grandfather, excluding my dad. All the married daughters and the eldest grandson also led *isoton*. My grandfather had 21 children and 26 grandchildren.

The distance walked could range from less than a mile to about 15 miles, depending on where the *egbe* (elders) decide each person should start walking. Each *isoton* had to make a stop at the statue of Emetan, a traditional Benin heroine, and then ended at my grandfather's house, where my father was sitting and waiting with the *egbe*.

As one of the granddaughters, I had to dress up in the required attire. I had to tie around my chest an orange lace wrapper that reached down to my ankles. Underneath the wrapper I had on a tube top and a short skirt. In case the wrapper fell. Better safe than sorry, right? I had white chalk painted below my collar bone in a V-shape. I wore two coral bead necklaces around my neck, one short and one long, as well as a coral bead bracelet on each wrist. My hair was put up and decorated with coral beads. Unfortunately for me, I had gotten my hair braided with extensions the day before, so as you can imagine getting my hair beaded was very painful. In my right I held an *abokpo*. It is made of bronze and in the shape of a ruler; only it has a slightly sharp pointy end and circled bottom. The *abokpo* is the female symbol for the mourning of the dead so all the daughters and granddaughters had to carry it, pointing it to the sky as they walked

It must have been around 5:30 p.m. when we started walking with a large group of people. I was in front with my two sisters, Faith and Amenze, and my brother Zusi, and my twin cousins Tulye and Kehinde. Since my brother is the eldest grandson, he had to lead the eight-mile *isoton*. To signify that he was the leader of the *isoton* he wore a hat that looked a little bit like a cowboy hat and he had his arms spread out and held by two men. He also carried a dagger, which is the male symbol for the mourning of the dead. The other grandchildren either *isotoned* with their parents or could not make it to the burial. My sisters and cousins were dressed similarly to me while my brothers led wrappers over their cargo shorts. They also wore coral bead necklaces and bracelets.

As I walked with my brothers and sisters and a large crowd of almost 200 extended family members and friends in between the flowing traffic on Ekwana Road in Benin City, not once did we almost get hit by a car because there were about ten of my dad's armed military officers surrounding the crowd and conducting the traffic. My dad is a Colonel in the Nigerian Army.

The people were singing traditional Benin songs in our language and dancing behind us. There were drummers playing the background music for the songs. I didn't know the words to the songs...heck, I can barely even speak the language, but I did dance. My sisters made sure to point and laugh at my embarrassing dancing skills.

"Hello fine princesses," said a dark-skinned young man in the passenger seat of a yellow public bus as he waved and then blew kisses at my sisters and I. I ignored him and tried to keep in mind that eight miles wasn't really that long of a distance and would be over before I knew it. And besides, if he tried anything funny, I could just stab him with my *abokpo*. "Keep moving," one of the soldiers screamed at the driver of the bus. The driver quickly increased his speed and was out of sight in no time.

By the time we got the statue of Emetan, I was sweating buckets and all my make up had run down my face. The chalk on my chest was also running down with the sweat, staining my orange wrapper. We had to pay respects to her grave by paying money to her grave keeper. It is a sort of sacrifice made to her. He only spoke in Benin so my grandfather had to translate what he said into broken-English.

After we left the statue of Emetan, the walk was easier. I was dancing and humming the songs and laughing with my cousins. In no time we were back at my grandfather's house. Inside the compound my dad was sitting down with the *egbe* waiting for us to come and pledge loyalty to him. We stood in front of him and danced around a picture of my grandfather. He then took out his dagger and my brother took his and they touched daggers and then my brother raised his to the sky. This represents the loyalty pledge and paying respect to my grandfather.

As we were driving back home in the car I sat quietly thinking. I had been away from Benin culture for almost nine years and in one day I experienced a what seemed like a life time worth of tradition. It was beautiful.

I'm so used to being the African girl who stands out every time I have the hard name to say. But I realized that because I have my name is mispronounced it is just a reminder that my name is a part of a culture that is different from the one Mary Washington has to offer.

So now, I won't get as offended when my name is butchered in front of the whole class. Besides, it's not like I can change it. I mean, do I really look like a Kelly?



First Person



Photo Courtesy Osasu Airiabere

Airiabere (second from left) prepares for her grandfather's funeral with her family.

# Former MWC Grads Find A Home In Fredericksburg

By C. RUTH CASSELL

Issues Editor

In a survey of 50 students ranging from freshmen to seniors, 14 said that they thought the relationship between Mary Washington College and the town of Fredericksburg was "non-existent." Twelve students noted that they thought the relationship was "bad," while the remaining 24 respondents picked from the options "fair," "good" or "excellent." Three students selected the latter of the choices. The survey was conducted as part of a class project for Speech 306 in the spring 2002 semester.

Despite the apparent lack of interest between the town and the college, each year a handful of students, many whom find part-time work in downtown Fredericksburg or choose local activities over college social settings. Many of these students moved to attend Mary Washington College from another town, which may have been smaller or less interesting than the small, home-parkish city of 19,000 that they soon call home. Nonetheless, Mary Washington College alumni speckle the town and most settle into a pleasant life as part of the Old Town Fredericksburg scenery.

Students and administrative officers have put energy and resources into documenting the troubled relationship between Mary Washington College and the town of Fredericksburg. According to Ray Pope, assistant vice president of the Office of Planning, Assessment and Research, his office and the Office of Alumni Relations track where incoming students reside before admission and where alumni move after graduation. However, he says that the college has no records showing how many students moved into Fredericksburg to attend Mary Washington College who continue to claim residency in the town after graduation.

Dean of Student Life Cedric Rucker also recognizes the gap in relations between the college and the town and he compares Fredericksburg and Mary Washington College to Charlottesville, Va. and the University of Virginia. He says that 75 percent of Charlottesville residents are connected with the university, many because they are alumni.

"Fredericksburg is not a college town, it is a town with a college in it," he says.

"It's not a trend the college has records of," he says. "But, I know from personal experience that some students who graduate from Mary Washington either stay in town for a few years or move back to Fredericksburg to raise a family."

Graduating students do stay in Fredericksburg, some for a year or two and others for a lifetime. Some, like Abby Johnson, stay because they find love and others, like David Harris, don't leave because the sense of community keeps them hoping that a career opportunity waits behind the next ornamented storefront.

### Abby Johnson

Johnson, 24, sits at her newly purchased computer, tries to keep her young rambunctious golden retriever entertained with a lamb shank bone, and looks up information about small business plans on the internet. She graduated from Mary Washington College with a Bachelor of Science in Business in 1998 and, although she did get a promising job opportunity in Fredericksburg after graduation, she says that the people in the town are what really drew her to stay.

"I like the people in Fredericksburg because they are nice," she says. "Now, you have the haughty-toughies who make money in the city and then come here to live, but the people in the downtown area make the town for me."

Johnson lives with her boyfriend Blake Bethem and her ex-boyfriend Doug Bailey in a small house with a front porch and green shutters off of Fall Hill Avenue. She works as a lunch server and hostess at Bistro 309 on William Street, where Bethem works as the Chef de Cuisine. She spends any free time making plans for the family-style restaurant that she and Bethem hope to open. She says, though, that she wishes her Mary Washington College education had better prepared her for starting her own business.

"Well, when I first came to college I thought I wanted to be an environmental lawyer, but I took one biology class and I was out of there," she laughs. "I studied business, but I did not like the fact that there wasn't a lot of choice. I wanted to concentrate on marketing and I did, but that was only four classes. You had to take business administration, and there was nothing about starting or running a small business."

She says that Mary Washington College and Fredericksburg fit her well when she picked a place to be her home for at least four years.

"I chose Mary Washington first because it was a state school," she says. "But, I did not want to go to a big school, they scared me to death. I wanted a place that was close enough so that I could drive home if I wanted to, but far enough away that I couldn't go home all the time."

Fredericksburg almost seems like a big city to Johnson, who spent her last three years in a big city in Hillsville, Va. and grew up in a small town in New Hampshire. She has sort of a down home, small town girl look to her. She usually wears her just-above-the-shoulders dark hair pulled straight back in a ponytail and, when not

in work uniform, she sports sweats or jeans and a T-shirt.

She says that when she graduated from Mary Washington College, the idea of returning to her parent's home inspired her to remain in Fredericksburg.

"One reason I stayed here was because going home was not an option and I'm not so free-spirited that I could move across the country by myself," she explains.

Another reason she stayed, though, was Bethem. They met when he was a line cook and she a server at Riverview, a steak and seafood restaurant that sits on Sophia Street right up against the Rappahannock River. She worked there the summer after her junior year in college and through her senior year when she was living with a friend in Snowden Apartments. After graduation she moved into a one-bedroom apartment on Winchester Street with her dog Bailey, and the owners of Riverview offered her a management position.

"Working in the restaurant was my social environment while I was in school," she says. "My friends and I hung out downtown and in my apartment, but we weren't involved in school organizations. I wasn't looking to be too involved."

Johnson says that she thought the management job at Riverview was as close as she would get to a job in business management directly out of school, and she liked working with the owners. She also remembers how she and Bethem, who she moved in with in July 2001, met and began seeing one another.

"We worked together so we saw each other a lot, but the relationship started off pretty slow," she says.

"By the time I left Riverview he had already gone to work at Bistro 309. And I had even talked about buying the building to open a restaurant before they sold it out from underneath us."

The new owners of Riverview let Johnson go in September 2001, after she had worked for the establishment for three years. She says that, though she was upset by the loss of her job, she was glad to move on from that restaurant if she and Bethem could not run it themselves.

She worked for Vanessa

Moncure, also a Mary Washington College graduate, at Chez V Catering as the Head Party Coordinator for four months. In January 2002 she began working with Bethem again at Bistro 309, which is owned by Moncure and another Mary Washington College graduate Jay Comfort, because the restaurant opened for lunch hours and needed an available server.

"I don't mind working with Blake again, because we really don't see each other all that much," she says. "He works a lot and I only work 25 hours a week. So, I have time to take care of the house and research about starting our own business. I am glad that we could afford this new computer, though, because it has helped with my planning."

### David Harris

Harris, 31, sits at a cafe table outside of Hyphen Espresso in downtown Fredericksburg, with a large cup of coffee in one hand and a cigarette in his mouth, admiring his latest purchase from Apple Music. He just traded in his electric recording equipment for a handmade acoustic mandolin and he admires it like one would look at a small child as he tells a fellow musician about the incredible sound he gets from the wooden instrument.

During his time in Fredericksburg, Harris has had his hand in everything from construction to playing hard core music in a local band. He has held a job, or two, since he came to Fredericksburg from Virginia Beach in the fall of 1989 to attend Mary Washington College and study English.

"I came for the value," he says bluntly. "I don't think it is as true now, but then the school was considered a good deal for a good education. I didn't even look out any other colleges. Hell, I never even heard about Mary Washington. I just showed up."

He may have just shown up for college, but Harris has made a place for himself in the town of Fredericksburg. He now works as head chef at Chez V, the local catering company owned by alumna Moncure, and remains active in what is left of the local music scene.

"When I came to Fredericksburg there was a lot more live music," Harris says. "Good East Coast acts would come to downtown clubs and bars all the time. Now, it bothers me because it seems like Fredericksburg is growing out of control. The quantity of living is going up, but the quality of living is going down."

In 1989 Harris finished high school in Virginia Beach and a friend suggested Mary Washington College because of its reputation as a small liberal arts college that concentrated on academics. Harris says he also liked the close community in Fredericksburg and the small classrooms that only had 10-15 students. During his freshman year, he lived in Randolph Hall with his friend who had recommended the school.

"I don't know if they do this anymore, but then they were kind of cool and they put a bunch of us musicians together on the first and second floor of Randolph," he says. "So there was a lot of drinking and playing music and smoking weed, I didn't smoke then though."

Finishing his freshman year with a 3.8 GPA, Harris says that Joseph DiBella, now distinguished professor of Art and History, attracted him to

# There's Something Strange In The Neighborhood...

## ▼ GHOSTS, page 4

Betsy Tidd, a resident of the room, is telling her story. "It was late at night," she says. "We're just talking and see this flash like a camera flash."

Her roommate Frances Coffey adds that it couldn't have been someone with a camera because they are two stories off of the ground. Coffey also has a story. She claims to have heard an animal noise.

"I heard a cat meowing," Frances says. "It was coming from my roommate's bed. I didn't want to go to sleep."

"I hate cats!" she adds.

The women stop and laugh.

Tidd continues with another story.

Twice one night, the phone had been moved off the hook, causing it to make noise. Each time, it woke her up and she got up to fix it.

"I didn't think about it till the next morning," she says.

Alena Callaghan, her roommate who has remained silent, abruptly speaks up.

"There is no ghost!" she says.

"I think there is a rational explanation for everything. That was me with the phone. I didn't want my boss calling me."

Her roommates look shocked.

"You let us go for five months without telling us?" Tidd says.

"I told other people, just not you," Callaghan responds. "I thought it was funny."

As you leave the room, you hear Tidd speak again to Callaghan.

"Thanks for making us look like asses!"

**Room 310**

Directly across the hall, Maria Cedeno tells of a strange voice coming from around the room one day. She and her roommate's all heard a little kid's voice calling for its dad.

"The voice was moving all around the room," Cedeno says. "It was saying 'Daddy, where are you? Daddy? Hello Daddy?'"

"It was really scary," she adds.

Another time, a roommate went to take a shower, and while she was gone, music from her computer kept started playing.

The strange thing was, every few seconds, the music changed.

"It would like someone was listening and was like 'No, I don't want that,'" Cedeno says. "I was very scared. We let our roommate deal with it."

**Room 203**

There's not one ghost in Mercer Hall. There are three—at least, according to Ashley Bland and Emily Dilger who lived in 203. They've communicated with the ghosts, multiple times.

"We talked to them in the beginning of the year with the



Mercer Hall.

Phillip Griffin/Bullet

ouija board. We had candles and all that," Dilger says. "I wasn't nervous. They told us they wouldn't hurt us."

The women wrote down their conversation when they talked to the ghosts. According to them, the ghosts are Jessica, XA and Bob.

"They said they were in the room and the poster fell, at that very moment," Bland says.

Bob was the most important of the ghosts.

"We talked to Bob once, and then every ghost mentioned Bob," I think Bob was crazy," Dilger says.

"People kept coming back and saying Bob was evil or he was in trouble or he was trouble."

Bland has had the most experiences with the ghosts. She's seen a doorknob turn by itself. She's heard noises coming from upstairs that sound like people are moving furniture—only they happen repeatedly at 2 a.m. and the lights upstairs are off. She also had a time when the stairwell door would not open, except under extreme force, and when it did open, the stairwell smelled like someone had died in the stairway. Now though, she mostly just hears strange noises.

"It sounds like somebody's dropping keys," she says. "It moves all around, and it's really creepy. No one really believes me when I say how loud it is."

"Then something happened that made him jump about a foot in the air — several people behind him screamed."

"What the —?"

He gasped. So did the people around him. About twenty ghosts had just streamed through the back wall."—J.K. Rowling, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone"

Ray Tuttle, former associate director of Residence Life and Judicial Affairs, says he doesn't believe in the Mercer ghost, although he's heard the stories.

But, Tuttle says, four years ago, the head resident of Mercer saw something unusual.

She was alone in the building, when she heard the elevator open, and a woman wearing a nurse's outfit came out. The head resident started to address the woman, but then the nurse turned, walked through the wall and disappeared.

The head resident proceeded to leave the building terrified.

"She's not a silly woman," Tuttle says. "And she was not entirely sure that it happened, but this is what she thinks she saw."

Tuttle says he thinks she may have seen something, but he doesn't think it was a ghost—although he doesn't know what it was.

"I think most buildings on campus had a ghost story at some time," Tuttle says. "I think when you're living in an old place, it just seems scarier and you fabricate things."

## From Student To Townie

### ▼ HOME, page 5

the department by providing scholarship money. He graduated in 1992 with a Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art.

"I got a really good education, partly because of the financial aid assistance," Harris says.

"I got a good education because I could afford to eat and studied."

During fall 1990, he moved into a room and lived in a house on Franklin St., a place he grew up in as a teenager, and a warm family.

Finished in 1992, Harris got a job at a local business and worked there for a year. "I moved into town because I lived in Russell Hall and it was a week and I couldn't wait because it's hard to move into a house that someone would rent."

After his second graduation, Harris moved into a house on Franklin St. and lived there for a year. "I moved into town because I lived in Russell Hall and it was a week and I couldn't wait because it's hard to move into a house that someone would rent."

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After his second graduation, Harris moved into a house on Franklin St. and lived there for a year. "I moved into town because I lived in Russell Hall and it was a week and I couldn't wait because it's hard to move into a house that someone would rent."

with local businesses in April.

Thomas says that's why he's staying in town.

"I don't want to go into a town where I don't know the people," he says.

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# Scene

your guide to entertainment

## FAST FACT:

Mosquitos are attracted to people who have just eaten bananas.

coming  
attractions

▼ Aug. 26 to October 11: *Egg Tempera: An Enduring Tradition*. Ridderhoff Martin Gallery. Free.

▼ Thursday, August 22: *Comedy Club Night*. 10 p.m. in Dodd Auditorium. Free.

▼ Friday, August 30: *Fall into Fridays*. 5 p.m. to 12 a.m. in the Underground. Free.

## top ten movies

1. XXX
2. Signs
3. Blue Crush
4. Spy Kids 2: The Island of Lost Dreams
5. Austin Powers in Goldmember
6. My Big Fat Greek Wedding
7. Blood Work
8. Road to Perdition
9. The Master of Disguise
10. The Adventures of Pluto Nash

Opening This Weekend:  
"Simone" with Al Pacino,  
"Serving Sara" with Matthew Perry and Elizabeth Hurley and  
"Undisputed" with Wesley Snipes and Ving Rhames

source: [www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com)

## Quote of the Week

"In a world full of guys, be a man!"  
- "Say Anything"

# The Common Thread

The Fine Arts Departments Inspired By History And Exotic Cultures

By AMANDA-KATE JACOBS

Scene Editor

The art, music and theater departments have all taken their inspiration from unexplored cultures and history to give Mary Washington College a broad and unique array of performances for the upcoming semester.

### Music

The Music department's first major attraction will be from Sept. 9 through the 12. Four Nations is a musical group that concentrates on the music of the 17th and 18th centuries. They will be giving performances for the entire student body, and several of the music classes on campus will have the opportunity to attend special demonstrations and workshop sponsored by the group.

"We are very excited about having a group called Four Nations come to Mary Washington," Patricia Norwood said, chair of the department. "A colleague recommended the group to me, praising their excellent performances, but also their coaching abilities and demonstrations they provide for the students."

"We want the students to walk away with the excitement of baroque music. Also, for music students, we want them to learn about the unique sound of baroque instruments. They will have the opportunity to learn about the harpsichord, an instrument that is rarely featured in contemporary music," Norwood said.

Sept. 19 will also be a busy day for the music department. In the afternoon, the department will be having Eyal Bore from Baltimore to lecture on the influences of Jewish music on 20th century contemporary music. Bore is also a professional clarinetist, and will be giving demonstrations.

That night, along with the Modern Foreign Language Department, the music department is sponsoring a musical dramatization called "Tres Vidas," which means three lives in Spanish.

"Tres Vidas is a dramatic rendering of the lives and works of Hispanic authors," said Norwood.

On Oct. 31, the wind and percussion ensemble will be having a Halloween concert. "Last year it was held in the Underground, and proved to be popular with the students," Norwood said. "All of the mentioned performances are different from our standard performances. The department is really trying to provide the campus with a more culturally diverse array of performances than we have in the past."

### Art

The Art Department has already begun their activities for this semester, starting with an exhibit call "Egg Tempera: An Enduring Tradition," displayed at the Ridderhoff Martin Gallery. The display is almost completely up, and will be open for viewing on the first day of classes, however its formal opening is on Thursday, Sept. 5.

The display is done by the Society of Tempera Painters, which was founded in 1997.

"The exhibit of tempera painting reflects an important element in post-modern art. Where modern art rejected historical influences, post-modern art looks to history and art history for inspiration," Tom Somma, Director of the Ridderhoff Martin Gallery, said.

"Although there is a variety of subject matter and themes, they are all united by a renewed interest in the ancient way of painting," he said.

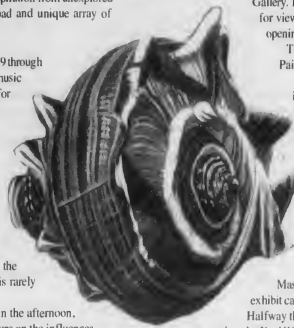
In the lobby of the gallery will be additional works of art by professor Joseph DiBella, who is also a member of the Society of Tempera Painters. Colleges in Miami and Massachusetts will also house this exhibit. Also, an exhibit catalogue will be available for purchase in the gallery. Halfway through the run of the exhibit, there will be a lecture given by Fred Wessel, who is a key artist and member of the society.

On Sept. 13, the DuPont Gallery will open an exhibit done by Studio Art professor Carol Garmen.

### Theater

The Theater Department will be offering two performances in Klein Theater this semester. The first play, "The Diviners," will be running from Sept. 19 through the 29. The second play, "Blithe Spirit," will run from Nov. 14 through the 24.

Auditions will be open to all students. For more information on the theater department and auditions, call the Box Office at x1124.



Top photo: A tempera painting. Bottom: The MWC Jazz Ensemble in spring of 2002.

Photos courtesy of Office of College Relations

## Welcome Week Worries: Here's What's Not To Be Missed

Thursday, Aug. 22:

Football 6 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. - 2:42 p.m. in Dodd Auditorium. Listen to the "Mary's Man" of the football team, and see how they do in how to jump on the field during the game.

Friday, Aug. 23:

Football 6 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. - 2:42 p.m. in Dodd Auditorium. Listen to the "Mary's Man" of the football team, and see how they do in how to jump on the field during the game.

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Saturday, Aug. 24:

Football 6 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. - 2:42 p.m. in Dodd Auditorium. Listen to the "Mary's Man" of the football team, and see how they do in how to jump on the field during the game.

Sunday, Aug. 25:

Football 6 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. - 2:42 p.m. in Dodd Auditorium. Listen to the "Mary's Man" of the football team, and see how they do in how to jump on the field during the game.

Monday, Aug. 26:

Football 6 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. - 2:42 p.m. in Dodd Auditorium. Listen to the "Mary's Man" of the football team, and see how they do in how to jump on the field during the game.

Tuesday, Aug. 27:

Football 6 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. - 2:42 p.m. in Dodd Auditorium. Listen to the "Mary's Man" of the football team, and see how they do in how to jump on the field during the game.

Wednesday, Aug. 28:

Football 6 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. - 2:42 p.m. in Dodd Auditorium. Listen to the "Mary's Man" of the football team, and see how they do in how to jump on the field during the game.







# Sports

the latest athletic news and information

## Fast Fact:

Elephants are the only mammals that can't jump.

## Schedule

### Men's Soccer

Aug. 31: at Shenandoah University  
Sept. 7: vs Gettysburg College  
Sept. 8: vs Hampden-Sydney College  
Sept. 11: at N.C. Wesleyan College

### Women's Soccer

Aug. 30: at Gettysburg College  
Aug. 31: William Smith College  
Sept. 4: Marymount University  
Sept. 7: Western Maryland College

### Field Hockey

Aug. 30: at Gettysburg College  
Aug. 31: vs William Smith College  
Sept. 4: at Marymount University  
Sept. 7: at Western Maryland College

### Men's Cross Country

Sept. 7: at Shepherd College Invitational  
Sept. 4: at McDaniel College Invitational  
Sept. 27: at Great American Festival

### Women's Cross Country

Sept. 7: at Shepherd College Invitational  
Sept. 4: at McDaniel College Invitational  
Sept. 27: at Great American Festival

## athlete of the week

### Sage Rosenfels

**Redskins quarterback scored three touchdowns in pre-season win against Pittsburgh.**

## The Grinches Who Stole Baseball

By KEVIN J. WICKERSON  
Special To The Bulletin

I love baseball. I've watched it religiously since I was a kid. I love the fact that in any given game, you might see something you have never seen before. Unfortunately for baseball, the players, and owners a work stoppage is not uncommon at all.

If the players go through with a strike on Aug. 30, it will be the ninth time in which the game has been interrupted. As Ed Rooney said in "Ferris Bueller's Day Off," "Nine times."

Why are the players striking? It's over money of course. Texas Ranger shortstop Alex Rodriguez makes an average of \$25 million per year. Hell, even utility players are making in excess of over a million per year. It's enough to make you sick.

Owners want a level playing field financially. Who could blame them? Most of the owners are sick of the New York Yankees and other high spending teams buying up every free agent just because they can. It's only a matter of time before franchises start declaring bankruptcy because they cannot keep up with the upper echelon of teams with the biggest payrolls.

Honestly, baseball is on a downward trend. People want to see action in this fast paced society. The NFL has all ready passed baseball as the most popular sport in America. The NBA and NHL are on their way. You want to know why? Competition.

It's not good for you to feed off your sport and sacrifice teams just for you to win a championship. The prime example of this is the New York Yankees. Sure they have great scouts and a decent farm system. The main reason they can keep going though is because they have all the bling-bling to throw around.

If you are reading this and thinking that the Yankees have that right, well you are not a BASEBALL FAN! You are an apologist for the elite in this sport. The high money teams don't deserve a title just because they have more money to throw around. That's called buying championships and it is not very noble to settle a World Series with your checkbook.

Another thing that ticks me off is that players and owners are talking about "their" salaries and terms. What about the vendor who supplies hot

dogs? Or the person selling merchandise on the street before a game? Or what about the restaurant owner who sees 75 percent of his or her business lost during the season of strike? I tell you what will happen; they get the shaft and go out of business. That's a sacrifice to be made for our baseball "heroes".

Here's the solution for the owners and the players. Have a luxury tax of 60 percent of any salary that goes above the 110 million dollar limit. This would affect about seven teams this year. It would stymie player's salaries. This will allow more teams to be in the hunt for free agents.

I would also get rid of both the Florida Marlins and the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. These teams are a disgrace to the league and they have no fan support. Take the players off of those teams and have a dispersal draft.

Finally, move the Montreal franchise to Washington, D.C. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that Washington has been starving for a franchise longer than Kate Moss has been starving for a Big Mac. Washington baseball would bring in more fans than those dilapidated franchises in Florida have brought in for years.

The players have to ask themselves if they want to give up the future of their sport so they can cash in as much as possible right now. The Players Union is worried about losing one or two teams to contraction next year. I can tell you that baseball will lose five to six teams within the next five years in the current system.

I can see the commercial for next season right now. Announcer: Nosebleed seats at an Expos (if they're not contracted) game, \$250. Two hotdogs and two beers, \$40. Fans sacrificing financial viability for millionaires. Priceless.

That's exactly what is going to happen sooner or later to the fans. Someone has to pay for the higher salaries. That friend will be you and me.

I'm certainly not going back like the players strike. Damn, I hate baseball.



Photo Courtesy of djetonline.com  
Professional baseball player Derek Jeter.

## Sports Update

### Smith Named All-American

By OSASU AIRHIAVBERE  
Associate Editor

Senior Conor Smith was named to the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) All-American team for the 2001-02 season. Smith is the second ever MWC men's tennis player to be named All-American.

Todd Helbling, men's tennis coach said that he is impressed with Smith's performance this past season and attributes his success to his confidence and dedication to tennis.

"Conor wins matches that he should win because he plays with confidence," Helbling said.

"He plays like there is no match he can't win."

Smith

ended the season with a #16 ranking in the nation and he also led the Eagles to their best national ranking of #14.

Smith, the Eagle's top player had quite a few highlights in the past season. His notable performances included defeating Vellu Anila, the number one ranked player in the NCAA Division III as well as advancing to round two of the NCAA singles tournament this past May.

In 1997, Chris Wallace was the first and only other MWC men's tennis player that has been named ITA All-American. Since he arrived at MWC, Smith has gradually improved and he has his accomplishments and awards as proof. His freshman year he played at the NCAA tournament where he won his match in the first round. His sophomore year, he was named the Capital Athletic Conference (CAC) Athlete of the Year and also led the Eagles to the NCAA tournament. Being named All-American his junior year is at the top of the list of his accomplishments.

Helbling expects to see even more improvement in Smith's performance next tennis season.

"He worked very hard last season," Helbling said. "I'm very proud of how much he has improved."



File Photo  
All American Conor Smith.

## Eagles Are Ready To Soar



Photo by Joel Nelson

Fall sports begin this week. See next weeks issue of the Bulletin for previews of all this season's sports.

## The Bulletin

Applications are now available on the Information Desk in the Campus Center or can be assessed through the weekly email.

### THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE 2002-2003 SCHOOL YEAR:

- Cartoonist
- Assistant Features Editor(s)
- Assistant Scene Editor(s)
- Assistant Sports Editor(s)
- Assistant News Editor(s)
- Sports Photographer
- Distribution Manager
- Copy Editor(s)

## Sports Wire

Compiled by Julie Stavitski

### Baseball Owners Present Revenue Sharing Proposal

According to the Associated Press, major league baseball owners presented a revenue sharing deal to the union Wednesday in order to get salary talks going again. Lawyers for the union said that the move was in the right direction. Players have set an Aug. 30 strike date.

### Baseball Clubs Prepare For Strike

Baseball teams were advised to cut expenses and reduce overhead costs during the possible union strike, the Associated Press reported. Frank Connelly, a lawyer in the labor relations department of the commissioner's office, recommended that teams should look at all obligations of contracts to figure out how to cut costs during the strike.

### USA Basketball Team Out For Top NBA Draft Pick

The U.S. National basketball team is raring to take on China's Yao Ming in an exhibition game Thursday, Aug. 22. Ming, a 21-year-old, 7 foot 5 inch center was chosen as chosen first overall in the NBA draft by the Houston Rockets. According to CNN.com, USA team member Ben Wallace said, "We're going to beat him up pretty bad."


### Little League Hot Dog Team Warned

Harlem's little league team was warned by World Series officials after a player was hotdogging after hitting a home run. Andrew Diaz waved bye bye to the ball, and strutted his way to home, bouncing on the plate when he reached it. The team's coach admonished them for their behavior, according to CNN.

### Russian Mob Man Indicted In Figure Skating Fix

Alimzhan Tokhtakhounov a reputed Russian mobster, was indicted for fixing the 2002 winter figure skating competition, Reuters reported. Tokhtakhounov allegedly traded votes with the French to ensure the Russians would win pairs figure skating. In exchange, the Russians would have voted for the French in ice dancing.

Q: What do you call cheese that does not belong to you?

A:  
  
Nacho Cheese!

Q: What did one wall say to the other wall?

A:  
  
Meet you at the corner!

If you don't want crappy cartoons like this all semester, apply to be The Bullet's cartoonist today!!

@ Phillip Griffith



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- Assistant Sports Editor(s)
- Assistant News Editor(s)
- Sports Photographer
- Distribution Manager
- Copy Editor(s)

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## Classes are starting now!

Classes starting September 26, 2002

Applications are now available on the Information Desk in the Campus Center or can be assessed through the weekly email.

Enroll now! Class is filling fast!

THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE 2002-2003 SCHOOL YEAR:

Call today to reserve your seat!

- Assistant Features Editor(s)
- Assistant Scene Editor(s)
- Assistant Sports Editor(s)
- Assistant News Editor(s)
- Sports Photographer
- Distribution Manager
- Copy Editor(s)

## NOW AIRING TV LAND

EAT YOUR TV DINNERS WHILE  
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Wednesday 8-28  
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8-27 Come See A Performance From  
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## the Bullet

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THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS ARE  
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- Cartoonist
- Assistant Editors
- Photographers
- Distribution Manager

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CONTACT ALUMNI  
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9. Resume builder.
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Monday	6:15 - 9:15 p.m.
Tuesday	6:15 - 9:15 p.m.
Wednesday	6:15 - 9:15 p.m.
Thursday	6:15 - 9:15 p.m.





## Cuts To Library Book And Periodical Acquisition Budget Reduced To 10 Percent

By THOMAS KEENEY

Staff Writer

Previously, Mary's book and periodical acquisition budget was cut by 10 percent of the proposed 21 percent budget cuts according to college officials.

Rick Pearce, assistant vice president for business and finance, said that the library's budget was cut by 10 percent of the proposed 21 percent budget cuts according to college officials.

Library Services, director of library, said that the library's budget was cut by 10 percent of the proposed 21 percent budget cuts according to college officials.

"I am not sure if the library will have to make any changes to its budget," said Pearce. "I think the library will be able to handle the cuts without any major changes to its budget."

Thomas Keene, associate professor of English, Languages and Speech, expressed concern over the cuts to the book fund.

"The college is trying to protect jobs," Keene said. "I mean I don't want to see people laid off so we can try books. I think the college is making the best decisions it can. We're in a tough spot all over the place, and it's going to get worse before it gets better."

When initially interviewed, Strohl did not know the proposed cuts to his department had been reduced. Before learning about less severe budget cuts, he expressed great concern over the loss of periodical funds. He said in order to cut costs, the library would have to end subscriptions to many journals and instead invest in cheaper, electronic versions.

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Rebecca Elsworth, Collection Development Librarian, said that library administration is trying to divide the \$45,000 cut to the book and periodical acquisition budget among the various departments. She said the library will be offering more electronic resources, as business and the performing arts. As far as print resources, Elsworth said that the cuts will be to standing order journals and subject areas such as journals and monographs.

"Students are likely to look more at the library website," Elsworth said. "I think there are more databases than a number of students are aware of. Students have a problem with how to use the library's resources for students."

Elsworth said that while he will have less office space in Chandler Hall personally, he is happy about having contiguous faculty offices and more classroom space.

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▲ COMBS, page 1

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"Nice thing about new office is book space. The department will get 100 linear feet of book space," Gaines said.

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▲ TUITION, page 1

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This increase, in addition to other fee hikes, will generate \$1.5 million to compensate for the \$2.4 million cut in state funding for 2002-03.

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Tuition increases have not been the only thing affected by the budget cuts. A reduction in contract services for grounds and building alterations and maintenance causing an increase of 10% in their daily responsibilities, as well as a reduction in the budget for the library.

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Rappahannock Big Brothers Big Sisters  
offers unique volunteer opportunities for MWC students!



### Campus Pals

Volunteers meet with local children on Sunday afternoons from 3 to 6 at MWC. Volunteers must live on campus. Please contact Libby Myers at 371-7444 or libbmyers@rbbs.org if you are interested.

### Mentors & Matches

Volunteers meet with children at local elementary & middle schools, for approximately one hour, 1-2 days per week. Transportation is provided. Please contact Barbara Poland at 371-7444 or barbarapoland@rbbs.org for specific days and times for each school.

Our programs offer opportunities for volunteers and children to meet one-on-one on a consistent basis, providing each child with friendship, support, and encouragement! Volunteers need to be creative, responsible, committed, and fun!



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Wednesday	6:15 - 9:15 p.m.
Thursday	6:15 - 9:15 p.m.



## Cuts To Library Book And Periodical Acquisition Budget Reduced To 10 Percent

By TERESA BEARY  
Staff Writer

Simpson Library's book and periodical acquisition funds will be cut only 10 percent of the proposed 20 percent budget cuts, according to college officials.

Rick Pearce, assistant vice president for Business and Finance, said that the library's book acquisition fund for this fiscal year will only be reduced by the proposed 10 percent or \$45,000. The periodical acquisition budget will not be reduced at all, despite the proposed \$21,500 or 10 percent cut.

Lenny Strohl, director of Simpson Library, said that he can only speculate the impact of the cuts until they take effect. However, he expressed concern that students' ability to do research could be affected.

"A kid who left here in May and will show up here in August to start the semester will ask, 'What happened to product A?' and we'll say 'Part of the budget cut.' I hope there won't be a lot of that," Strohl said. "It will also have some impact on what faculty members can expect for utilization on the part of the kids on a project."

Teresa Kennedy, associate professor of English, Linguistics and Speech, expressed concern over the cuts to the book fund.

"The college is trying to protect jobs first," Kennedy said. "I mean, I don't want to have people laid off so we can buy books. I think the college is making the best decisions it can. We're in cuts all over the place, and it's going to get worse before it gets better."

When initially interviewed, Strohl did not know the proposed cuts to his department had been reduced. Before learning about less severe budget cuts, he expressed great concern over the loss of periodical funds. He said in order to cut costs, the library would have to end subscriptions to many journals and instead invest in cheaper, electronic versions.

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The General Assembly's decision earlier this year to cut the state budget left Mary Washington College with a \$ 2.5 million budget cut for this fiscal year, according to Pearce. Pearce said the college's decision to increase tuition by eight percent for out-

of-state and nine percent for in-state students will reduce the cut to \$1.5 million. To make up the remaining money, the college asked each department to draw up proposals for budget cuts and submit them for final review to college administrators.

Rebecca Elswick, Collection Development Librarian, said that library administrators trying to divide the \$45,000 cut to the book fund between print resources and electronic databases. She said the library will be dropping four major databases in history, art, business and the performing arts. As far as print resources, Elswick said most of the cuts will be to standing order or regular print subscriptions such as journals and criticism books.

"Students may have to look more carefully at the databases we do have," Elswick said. "I think there are more databases than a number of students are aware of. It certainly helps if professors have bibliographic instruction sessions [for students]."

Elswick said that a cut to the book budget also affects periodical acquisition. According to Elswick, each year, approximately \$20,000-\$25,000 is transferred from the book budget into the periodical budget. Elswick said the library is going to cut a few of the more expensive biology journals.

To supplement the periodicals the college can no longer purchase, library officials suggest using VIVA, the virtual library of Virginia. VIVA is funded by the General Assembly and provides access to databases, journals, as well as links to all public and some private college and university library webpages.

However, Library Director Strohl expressed concern because the General Assembly cuts VIVA's budget as well.

"VIVA also lost money in the budget cycles, which has a rippling effect," Strohl said. "Cuts into them turn around and cut into us."

Paul Rittenmeyer, the University of Virginia's head of Acquisitions for Alderman Library, also expressed concern with the cuts to VIVA. He said that UVA, which now have to pay for the Academic Ideal Package, which included access to 100 journals, since VIVA can no longer afford to subscribe to it.

Rittenmeyer estimates that cuts to UVA's acquisition fund, which includes both book and journal acquisitions, will be about eight percent.

James Madison's University's Carrier Library estimates a one percent, or \$14,000 cut to their materials and non-personnel budget, according to JMU officials. However, private endowments generate several thousand dollars for their materials budget.

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▲ COMBS, page 1

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# FRESHMEN MOVE-IN 2002



## New Home Sweet Home:

According to college police, this year's freshman move-in was the best coordinated in recent memory, and this is despite having a freshman class of over 890 students. Above, Greg and Susan Butler move belongings into Jefferson Hall. Top right, Meghan Davis and family move her belongings into Virginia Hall. Center right, Paul Bristow and Nam Duong stand by rugs along campus walk. Bottom right, Kelly Ryan, Lisa Ryan, Laura Janer and Kathy Ryan prepare to bring belongings into the residence halls.

Photos by Juliette Gomez



## Va. Women Get New Leader

▲ BRAYMER, page 1

through education, collaboration, outreach, and leadership.

Braymer, who has been an assistant professor of English, assistant director of Nontraditional Studies and director of evening, summer and off-campus credit programs at Virginia Commonwealth University, has been involved with the foundation since she invited Terry to be the guest speaker at a leadership colloquium at the college in the late 90s. Terry, in turn, invited Braymer to attend a meeting of the Virginia Foundation for Women.

"I had an interest in women and leadership," said Braymer.

Braymer eventually became the foundation's vice-chair for programs in 1999, and helped bring many new programs to the foundation including the Leadership Program for Professional Women, which had been at the James Monroe Center since 1994, the Transition Program, which provides courses in interviewing skills and money management to help women get off of welfare, the Women's Business Connection, which helps businesswomen start up their own business and gives tips to women who have established themselves in the business world, and Women's History Month, which is held each March and honors eight Virginia women who have made a difference in the state.

When Braymer was elected chair this past summer, she gave a speech to members of the foundation that told them how special the foundation has become in its short existence.

"In the back of my mind I've wanted to find a cause that wasn't my job," said Braymer. "I wanted to find something that motivated me and the organization crept up on me. That was my cause."

As chair, Braymer said she plans develop programs that not only involve women's leadership, but the leadership of school-age girls as well.

"It's important to have girls be leaders," Braymer said. "We can learn so much from young girls."

Braymer said she places special emphasis on education for women and women being role models.

"Women's education is very important," said Braymer. "I want us to provide women with many of the opportunities and role models growing up that I didn't have. We can really do something here."

Overall, Braymer said that her goal and the goal of the federation is to educate women on the opportunities that are available to them throughout the state.

"We want to help every woman and girl meet her full potential," said Braymer. "By helping them, we're contributing to the greater good of all in the Commonwealth of Virginia, both men and women."

## Where Are Student Comprehensive Fees Going This Year?\*

### Education and General Budget

Account	Budget Amount in dollars
Admissions Contract Printing	220,150.00
Administrative Software System	60,000.00
Architectural Services	30,000.00
Audio-Visual Equipment	25,200.00
Building Improvements	100,000.00
College Equipment	100,000.00
Commencement	43,000.00
Community Relations committee	10,000.00
Cultural Events Program	25,000.00
MWC Eagle Pipe Band	9,000.00
Educational Aid To Employees	24,000.00
ELS Debate Program	42,500.00
Encore	2,500.00
Faculty Development Grants	223,500.00
Faculty Development T.J.P.	38,000.00
Faculty Evaluation and Advising	25,520.00
Faculty Recruiting Costs	72,000.00
James Farmer Visiting Professor	29,451.00
Fine Arts Productions (Theatre/Dance)	23,000.00
Fine Arts Productions (Music)	9,400.00
Fredericksburg Singers	1,000.00
Honor Council	15,000.00
Honor Council (JMC)	1,100.00
Memberships and Dues	40,000.00
James Monroe Presidential Center	5,000.00
Multicultural Center	129,248.00
Orientation and Programming	32,600.00
Student Leadership	50,916.00
Student Life Programming	24,500.00
Student Life Operating	6,000.00
Sabbaticals	130,000.00
Student Handbook	13,000.00
Summer Science Institute	94,000.00
Symphonics	1,000.00
Transportation	45,000.00
Undergraduate Research	58,000.00

### Auxiliary Support Budget

Account	Budget Amount in dollars
Athletic Fields Operating Expenses	60,000.00
Annual Giving Operations	76,000.00
Brompton Operating Expenses	57,000.00
Cheerleaders	5,000.00
College Grounds Special Projects	110,000.00
College Development Operating Expenses	51,260.00
College Relations Recovery	1,194,731.00
Community On Campus Academic Resources	20,000.00
Debt Service (Tennis Courts)	89,331.00
Debt Service (Telecomm Project)	644,752.00
Debt Service (Parking Debt)	386,134.00
Development Office Move To Alvey	40,000.00
Family Weekend	2,500.00
Finance Committee	415,000.00
Fine Arts Productions (MWC Galleries)	35,280.00
FRED	119,000.00
Special Events Programming	15,000.00
Intercollegiate Athletics	813,004.00
Lee Hall	45,000.00
Maintenance (Res. Hall Summer Project)	220,000.00
Men's Rugby	2,000.00
Parking Reserve	19,000.00
Performing Arts	20,000.00
President's Special Projects	54,000.00
Special Project-Campus Move	200,000.00
Student Activities Programming	23,550.00
Team Sports (Other)	383,029.00
Team Sports (Meals)	7,000.00
Underground (Operating Expenses)	32,612.00
Women's Rugby	2,000.00
Student Services Support	20,020.00
Woodard Campus Center	349,617.00

Total Comprehensive Fee Amount:

**\$7,329,505.00**

\*(All information current as of 7/31/02. Further state budget cuts may reduce these amounts. All information courtesy Vice President for Business and Finance. Graphic by Phillip Griffith.